



116th Congress, 2019–2020

Legislative Audit

Paul D. Tonko, U.S. Representative
New York 20th Congressional District

12 new laws & finalized bills

- **H.R. 583: The PIRATE Act (Bipartisan)**—toughens penalties for illegal radio signals that interfere with first responders, air traffic controllers and legitimate broadcasts
 - ❖ Signed into law by President Donald Trump as stand-alone legislation
- **H.R. 1328: ACCESS BROADBAND Act (Bipartisan)**—helps expand broadband access in underserved areas and creates a simpler process for small businesses and local economic developers to access federal broadband resources
 - ❖ Signed into law as Sec. 903 of H.R. 133: 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act
- **H.R. 1754: Horseracing Integrity & Safety Act (Bipartisan)**—designates the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority to design and implement uniform horse racing medication and racetrack safety standards nationwide
 - ❖ Signed into law as Div. FF, Title XII of H.R. 133
 - ❖ **260 cosponsors**
- **H.R. 1873: Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's (Bipartisan)**—requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to inform healthcare providers about care planning benefits available through Medicare. The bill would also require HHS to identify other barriers individuals may be facing in accessing care planning
 - ❖ Signed into law as Div. CC, Title I Sec. 116 of H.R. 133
 - ❖ **More than 230 cosponsors**
- **H.R. 2288: Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Reauthorization Act (Bipartisan)**—raises the funding cap for the Erie Canalway, which was overlooked when a Senate-led “Lands” package advanced through Congress in February 2020
 - ❖ Signed into law as Div. D, Title V, Sec. 113 of H.R. 1865: 2020 Appropriations
- **H.R. 8390: AI Education Act (Bipartisan)**—requires the Director of the National Science Foundation to establish a grant program to make grants to eligible entities to develop instructional content on artificial intelligence, and for other purposes
 - ❖ Expected to be law as Div. E. Title IV Sec. 5401 of H.R. 6395: NDAA for 2021

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- **H.R. 2041: Weatherization Enhancement & Local Energy Efficiency (Bipartisan)**—reauthorizes and improves the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program, the largest residential energy efficiency program in the country to make efficiency improvements in low-income homes
 - Signed into law as Sec. 1011 of Div. Z of H.R. 133
- **H.R. 2659: high-efficiency turbine R&D (Bipartisan)**—establishes a Department of Energy RD&D program to improve efficiency of turbines
 - ❖ Signed into law as Sec. 4005 of Div. Z of H.R. 133
- **H.R. 3609: Wind Energy Research and Development Act (Bipartisan)**—directs the Department of Energy to carry out a grant program to research, develop, and evaluate wind energy technologies and systems
 - ❖ Signed into law as Sec. 3003 of Div. Z of H.R. 133
- **H.R. 5544: American Innovation and Manufacturing Leadership Act (Bipartisan)**—phases down production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), potent greenhouse gases primarily used as refrigerants, by providing an orderly, innovation-driven transition to next generation technologies
 - ❖ Signed into law as Sec. 103 of Div. S of H.R. 133
- **H.R. 8232: Bolster American Technology Through Expanding Recycling Yield (BATTERY) Act (Bipartisan)**—establishes a research, development, and demonstration program at the U.S. Department of Energy that would support critical mineral recycling and reuse from batteries
 - ❖ Signed into law as Sec. 3201(e) of Div. Z of H.R. 133
- **H.R. 5057: The Pass-Through Technical Corrections Act (Bipartisan)**
 - ❖ Signed into law as Sec. 107 of H.R. 1865

22 bills passed in House

- **H.R. 1709: Scientific Integrity Act (Bipartisan)**—insulates public science & scientists from political interference or retaliation, including during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - ❖ Passed House as Secs. 191601-4 of H.R. 6800 on 5.15.20 & Secs. 12501-3 of H.R. 4447 on 9.24.20 with **more than 230 cosponsors**
- **H.R. 1329: Medicaid Reentry Act (Bipartisan)**—allows states to activate Medicaid coverage for individuals leaving incarceration 30 days prior to release, helping finance care for COVID-related early releases while improving transitions to community care for those struggling with mental health and substance use disorder
 - ❖ Passed House as Sec. 30110 of H.R. 6800 on 5.15.20

- **H.R. 6645: the COVID-19 Mental Health Research Act**—funds research on COVID-19 mental health impacts on health care providers
 - ❖ Passed House as Sec. 30618 of H.R. 6800 on 5.15.20

- **H.R. 4629: Star Rating for Biosimilars Act (Bipartisan)**—directs the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to evaluate Medicare plans based on whether cost-saving biosimilars are available to enrollees. Biosimilar drugs are clinically equivalent forms of biologic drugs, similar to generics for standard prescription drugs. Biosimilars on average cost 30 percent less than biologics, which are used to treat some of life’s most serious diseases, including cancers, rheumatoid arthritis, and more
 - ❖ Passed House as Sec. 812 of H.R. 3 on 12.12.19

- **H.R. 4708: SAFE Limos Act & H.R. 4709: Take Unsafe Limos Off the Road Act (Bipartisan)**—limousine safety legislation passed by the House earlier this year as part of H.R. 2: the Moving Forward Act
 - ❖ **H.R. 4708** includes a broad array of safety reforms including retrofit assessments, seat belt, seat integrity, crash safety, evacuation, inspection disclosure event data recorder and modification standards
 - ❖ **H.R. 4709** provides funding to support states’ efforts to impound or immobilize vehicles that fail inspection for critical safety reasons, encouraging them to take strong actions to keep unsafe limos that fail inspection off the road
 - ❖ **Nearly 100 cosponsors**

- **H.R. 5530: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Rebate Act**—establishes a new Department of Energy rebate program to support deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at multi-family homes, workplaces, and other publicly accessible locations
 - ❖ Passed House as Sec. 6502 of H.R. 4447 on 9.24.20 & Sec. 33332 of H.R. 2 on 7.1.20

- **H.R. 5335: American Energy Opportunity Act (Bipartisan)**—establishes a process for expediting and standardizing the permitting process for certain distributed energy systems, such as rooftop solar
 - ❖ Passed House as Secs. 2301-4 of H.R. 4447 on 9.24.20

- **H.R. 1049: National Heritage Area Act (Bipartisan)**—tackles the current patchwork system for maintaining U.S. Heritage Areas and replaces it with clear, transparent standards to make it easier for local partnerships to develop and maintain Heritage Areas
 - ❖ Passed House as standalone bill with **more than 220 cosponsors** on 12.3.20

- **H.R. 8699: Erie Canalway Commission Extension Act (Bipartisan)**—extends authorization for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission through 2024, ensuring funding & stewardship of this cornerstone of New York’s heritage and economy
 - ❖ Achieved as part of H.R. 1049 on 12.3.20

29 bills introduced

- **H.R. 3925: Reducing Barriers to Substance Use Treatment Act (Bipartisan)**—prohibits state Medicaid programs from using onerous utilization management techniques—including prior authorization requirements—to make it harder for patients to get medication-assisted treatments (MAT) for opioid use disorder
- **H.R. 2482: Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act (Bipartisan)**—ends an outdated redundancy in federal law that restricts health providers from prescribing buprenorphine, a proven treatment that has helped countless Americans suffering with a substance use disorder. Providers can already prescribe the drug for pain management but are forced to go through a burdensome process to apply for a special DEA waiver to prescribe it to treat addiction
 - ❖ **More than 110 cosponsors**
- **H.R. 5263: Stopping Grinch Bots Act**—cracks down on the use of digital “bot” technology being used to buy up large batches of trending holiday toys in order to resell them at grossly inflated prices. These third-party sellers are using these automated tools to manipulate online sales systems, making some toys nearly impossible to purchase anywhere at the original retail price
- **H.R. 7567: Helping Experts Accelerate Rare Treatments (HEART) Act of 2020 (Bipartisan)**—advances a collection of reforms at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to strengthen the agency’s review and approval of drugs to treat rare and ultra-rare diseases, in particular by ensuring scientists and doctors with direct expertise are involved throughout the process of reviewing a treatment for a condition
- **H.R. 7323: Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act (Bipartisan)**—improves care for millions of America’s seniors by permanently repealing the Medicare 190-day lifetime limit for inpatient psychiatric care. The existence of such a limit today is arbitrary—the limit currently does not apply to psychiatric units in general hospitals and no other lifetime limit exists for any other Medicare specialty inpatient hospital service
- **H.R. 8348: New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act (Bipartisan)**—protects and restores the watersheds that flow into New York-New Jersey Harbor and their associated estuaries, improving accessibility and economic opportunity for the millions of Americans who reside near these waterways
- **H.Res. 263: Establishing a National Yellow Ribbon Day (Bipartisan)**—expresses Congressional support for designating April 9th as Yellow Ribbon Day to honor the service and sacrifice of active duty troops at home and abroad, and their families throughout the United States