118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to citizen petitions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. SHAHEEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to citizen petitions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Ensuring Timely Access to Generics Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. ENSURING TIMELY ACCESS TO GENERICS.

Section 505(q) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(q)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting ", 10.31," after "10.30";

(B) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) by striking "application and" and inserting "application or";

(ii) by striking "If the Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary";

(iii) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

"(ii) PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DELAYING.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—In determining whether a petition was submitted with the primary purpose of delaying an application, the Secretary may consider the following factors:

"(aa) Whether the petition was submitted in accordance with paragraph (2)(B), based on when the petitioner knew or reasonably should have known the relevant information relied upon to form the basis of such petition.

''(bb) Whether the petitioner has submitted multiple or serial petitions or supplements to petitions raising issues that reasonably could have been known to the petitioner at the time of submission of the earlier petition or petitions.

''(cc) Whether the petition was submitted close in time to a known, first date upon which an application under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act could be approved.

''(dd) Whether the petition was submitted without relevant data or information in support of the scientific positions forming the basis of such petition.

''(ee) Whether the petition raises the same or substantially similar issues as a prior petition to which the Secretary has re-

sponded substantively already, including if the subsequent submission follows such response from the Secretary closely in time.

''(ff) Whether the petition requests changing the applicable standards that other applicants are required to meet, including requesting testing, data, or labeling standards that are more onerous or rigorous than the standards the Secretary has determined to be applicable to the listed drug, reference product, or petitioner's version of the same drug.

''(gg) The petitioner's record of submitting petitions to the Food and Drug Administration that have been determined by the Secretary to have been submitted with the primary purpose of delay.

''(hh) Other relevant and appropriate factors, which the

Secretary shall describe in guidance.

''(II) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary may issue or update guidance, as appropriate, to describe factors the Secretary considers in accordance with subclause (I).''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) REFERRAL TO THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures for referring to the Federal Trade Commission any petition or supplement to a petition that the Secretary determines was submitted with the primary purpose of delaying approval of an application. Such procedures shall include notification to the petitioner by the Secretary.'';

(C) by striking subparagraph (F);

(D) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) through (I) as subparagraphs (F) through (H), respectively; and

(E) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by striking ''submission of this petition'' and inserting ''submission of this document'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively;

(B) by inserting before subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A person shall submit a petition to the Secretary under paragraph (1) before filing a civil action in which the person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act. Such petition and any supplement to such a petition shall describe all information and arguments that form the basis of the relief requested in any civil action described in the previous sentence.

''(B) TIMELY SUBMISSION OF CITIZEN PETITION.—A petition and any supplement to a petition shall be submitted within 60 days after the person knew, or reasonably should have known, the information that forms the basis of the request made in the petition or supplement.'';

(C) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''WITHIN 150 DAYS'';

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''during the 150-day period referred to in paragraph (1)(F),''; and

(iii) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) on or after the date that is 151 days after the date of submission of the petition, the Secretary approves or has approved the application that is the subject of the petition without having made such a final decision.'';

(D) by amending subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(D) DISMISSAL OF CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS.—

''(i) PETITION.—If a person files a civil action against the Secretary in which a person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or

section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act without complying with the requirements of subparagraph (A), the court shall dismiss without prejudice the action for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

''(ii) TIMELINESS.—If a person files a civil action against the Secretary in which a person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act without complying with the requirements of subparagraph (B), the court shall dismiss with prejudice the action for failure to timely file a petition.

''(iii) FINAL RESPONSE.—If a civil action is filed against the Secretary with respect to any issue raised in a petition timely filed under paragraph (1) in which the petitioner requests that the Secretary take any form of action that could, if taken, set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2)

or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act before the Secretary has taken final agency action on the petition within the meaning of subparagraph (C), the court shall dismiss without prejudice the action for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.''; and

(E) in clause (iii) of subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking ''as defined under subparagraph (2)(A)'' and inserting ''within the meaning of subparagraph (C)''; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''EXCEPTIONS'' in the paragraph heading and all that follows through ''This subsection does'' and inserting ''EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection does'';

(B) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(C) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly.