

HR 1805

Small Business Liability Reform Act of 2001

Congress: 107 (2001–2003, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: May 10, 2001

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, for a period to be subseque

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman. (May 22, 2001)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/1805>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Hutchinson, Asa [R-AR-3]

Party: Republican • State: AR • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Burr, Richard [R-NC-5]	R · NC		May 10, 2001
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		May 10, 2001
Rep. Dooley, Calvin M. [D-CA-20]	D · CA		May 10, 2001
Rep. Holden, Tim [D-PA-6]	D · PA		May 10, 2001
Rep. Moran, James P. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		May 10, 2001
Rep. Goode, Virgil H., Jr. [I-VA-5]	I · VA		May 21, 2001
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-5]	R · TX		May 25, 2001
Rep. Keller, Ric [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Jun 5, 2001
Rep. Souder, Mark E. [R-IN-4]	R · IN		Jun 7, 2001
Rep. Buyer, Steve [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Jun 12, 2001
Rep. Fletcher, Ernie [R-KY-6]	R · KY		Jun 13, 2001
Rep. Pence, Mike [R-IN-2]	R · IN		Jun 21, 2001

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	May 22, 2001
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	May 10, 2001

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of May 10, 2001)

Small Business Liability Reform Act of 2001 - Allows punitive damages to be awarded against a small business only if the claimant establishes by clear and convincing evidence that conduct carried out by the defendant with a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of others was the proximate cause of the harm that is the subject of the action. Limits such punitive damages to the lesser of three times the amount awarded for economic and noneconomic losses, or \$250,000. Makes such limitation inapplicable if the court finds that the defendant acted with specific intent to cause the type of harm for which the action is brought. Provides liability limitation exceptions.

States that in any civil action against a small business: (1) each defendant shall be liable only for the amount of noneconomic loss allocated to that defendant in direct proportion to the percentage of responsibility of that defendant for the harm caused to the plaintiff; and (2) the court shall render a separate judgment against each defendant describing such percentage of responsibility.

Excepts from such liability limitations specified misconduct of a defendant.

Mandates that, in any product liability action covered by this Act, a product seller other than a manufacturer shall be liable to a claimant only if such claimant establishes that: (1) the product that caused the harm was sold, rented, or leased by the seller, the seller failed to exercise reasonable care with respect to the product, and such failure was the proximate cause of harm to the plaintiff; (2) the seller made an express warranty applicable to such product, the product failed to conform to the warranty, and such failure caused the harm to the plaintiff; or (3) the product seller engaged in intentional wrongdoing, and such wrongdoing caused the harm to the plaintiff.

Actions Timeline

- **May 22, 2001:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.
- **May 10, 2001:** Introduced in House
- **May 10, 2001:** Introduced in House
- **May 10, 2001:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E783-784)
- **May 10, 2001:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
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