

HR 1219

Medical Malpractice and Insurance Reform Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 12, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.
(Mar 24, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/1219>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-14]

Party: Democratic • State: MI • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Dingell, John D. [D-MI-15]	D · MI		Mar 12, 2003
Del. Christensen, Donna M. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-39]	D · CA		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Hill, Baron P. [D-IN-9]	D · IN		Jun 2, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 24, 2003
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 12, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Medical Malpractice and Insurance Reform Act of 2003 - Declares that medical malpractice actions shall be barred unless the complaint is within three years after the right of action accrues. Sets forth criteria for determining the date on which the right of action accrues.

Prohibits any individual from bringing a medical malpractice liability action unless it is accompanied by the affidavit of a qualified specialist attesting to the reasonableness of the filing. Requires the attorney of a person filing such an action, or the individual if there is no attorney, to sign a certificate of merit attesting to the justified nature of the action.

Directs courts to impose sanctions for violations of the provisions pertaining to the certificate of merit, including to issue fines for multiple offenders.

Requires mediation, to be made available by the State, before a trial for any medical malpractice liability action.

Prohibits punitive damages from being awarded in a medical malpractice action except upon proof of gross negligence, reckless indifference to life, or one of various types of intentional acts.

Requires medical malpractice liability insurance companies to implement a plan to dedicate at least 50 percent of the annual savings from carrying out this section to reducing malpractice premiums. Imposes a civil penalty on medical malpractice liability insurance companies that violate this section.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to permit the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants or contracts to geographic areas that have shortages of one or more types of health providers due to the cost of maintaining malpractice insurance.

Establishes the Independent Advisory Commission on Medical Malpractice Insurance, which shall investigate the recent dramatic increases in medical malpractice insurance premiums and formulate proposals to reduce such premiums.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 24, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.
- **Mar 12, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 12, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 12, 2003:** 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.
- **Mar 12, 2003:** 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.
- **Mar 12, 2003:** 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.