

S 2544

Health Care Access for Small Businesses Act of 2004

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jun 17, 2004

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7015-7016)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7015-7016)
(Jun 17, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/2544>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]

Party: Democratic • State: MI • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 17, 2004
Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Jun 17, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 17, 2004

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 S 906	Related bill	Apr 11, 2003: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S5361-5363)

Health Care Access for Small Businesses Act of 2004 - Amends the Social Security Act to create a new title XXII to address health insurance coverage for small businesses.

Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants for the startup and operation of 50 eligible three-share (three-way health insurance premium sharing between employer, employee, and the community) pilot programs for a five-year period.

Authorizes the use of grants to establish three-share programs, provide for contributions to premiums assessed for coverage under such programs, and establish risk pools.

Requires grant applicants to: (1) be either nonprofits or local governmental entities; (2) define the program's service region; (3) have the capacity to carry out administrative functions associated with managing health plans; and (4) have demonstrated community involvement.

Requires programs to pay for the costs of services through monthly premiums, divided according to specified percentages.

Sets forth minimal coverage requirements for three-share program eligibility.

Requires the Administrator to develop a formula to determine which businesses qualify as distressed businesses for purposes of this Act.

Directs the General Accounting Office to submit a report to the Secretary and appropriate congressional committees after the grant period has ended.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 17, 2004:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 17, 2004:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR 6/18/2004 S7014-7015)
- **Jun 17, 2004:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7015-7016)