S 545

Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Health
Introduced: Mar 6, 2003
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (text of measure
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3256-3263) (Mar 6, 2003)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/545

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]
Party: Republican • **State:** ME • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bond, Christopher S. [R-MO]	R · MO		Mar 6, 2003
Sen. Coleman, Norm [R-MN]	R · MN		Mar 6, 2003
Sen. Dole, Elizabeth [R-NC]	R · NC		Mar 6, 2003
Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 6, 2003
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Mar 6, 2003
Sen. Talent, Jim [R-MO]	R · MO		Mar 6, 2003
Sen. Lott, Trent [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 31, 2003
Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]	R · PA		Jun 9, 2003
Sen. Byrd, Robert C. [D-WV]	D · WV		May 10, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 6, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 4281	Related bill	**May 13, 2004:** Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 638, H.R. 4281 is laid on the table.
108 HR 660	Identical bill	**Jun 20, 2003:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Mar 6, 2003)

Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2003 - Amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to revise provisions relating to access and choice for small business employers with respect to medical care for their employees.

Establishes rules governing association health plans (group health plans whose sponsors are trade, industry, professional, chamber of commerce, or similar business associations), including requirements relating to certification, sponsors and boards of trustees, participation, coverage, plan documents, contribution rates, benefit options, applications for certification, notice for voluntary termination, corrective actions, and mandatory termination.

Requires association health plans which provide health benefits in addition to health insurance coverage to maintain certain reserves and comply with other solvency provisions. Directs the Secretary of Labor to apply for appointment, and carry out specified duties, as trustee of any such insolvent association health plans which provide health benefits in addition to health insurance coverage.

Allows a State to impose a contribution tax on any association health plan commencing operations in such State after the enactment of this Act.

Requires association health plans to include in their summary plan descriptions, in connection with each benefit option, a description of the form of any solvency or guarantee fund protection secured under ERISA or applicable State law.

Revises provisions relating to treatment of: (1) single employer arrangements; and (2) certain collectively bargained arrangements.

Provides for association health plans with respect to: (1) enforcement; (2) cooperation between Federal and State authorities; and (3) treatment of certain existing health benefit programs.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 6, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 6, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3255-3256)
- **Mar 6, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3256-3263)

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