

HR 865

Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 13, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. (Mar 10, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/865>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Waxman, Henry A. [D-CA-30]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Feb 13, 2003
Rep. Capps, Lois [D-CA-23]	D · CA		Feb 13, 2003
Rep. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Feb 13, 2003
Rep. Harman, Jane [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Feb 26, 2003
Rep. Wexler, Robert [D-FL-19]	D · FL		Feb 26, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 10, 2003
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 10, 2003
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 26, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Feb 13, 2003)

Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003 - Amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue grants to State and local governments for various uses related to covered countermeasures against smallpox (countermeasures), including to provide for their administration. Requires States receiving grants to: (1) establish education programs regarding countermeasures; and (2) offer screening and testing for conditions that increase health risks from countermeasures.

Declares that it is illegal for an employer to discriminate against an individual because of a refusal to receive a countermeasure or because of an adverse reaction to a countermeasure.

Directs the Secretary to supply vaccinia immune globulin to anyone receiving vaccinia vaccine if such vaccine is declared a countermeasure.

Requires the Secretary to pay States the costs incurred for medical assistance to health care workers and first responders who suffer adverse reactions from a countermeasure, provided such individuals have not received other specified compensation.

States that this section constitutes budget authority in advance of appropriations Acts.

Amends the Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act to require continued coverage of benefits for countermeasure side effects by group health plans maintained by States and subunits of States at the level of such coverage as of September 10, 2001.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Smallpox Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, under which compensation may be paid for injury or death related to countermeasures on or after November 25, 2002.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 10, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations.
- **Mar 10, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.
- **Feb 26, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 13, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 13, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E268)
- **Feb 13, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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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