

S 354

HEALTH Act of 2005

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 10, 2005

Current Status: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S1603-1605)

Latest Action: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S1603-1605) (Feb 17, 2005)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/354

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Ensign, John [R-NV]  
Party: Republican • State: NV • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gregg, Judd [R-NH]	R · NH		Feb 10, 2005
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Feb 10, 2005
Sen. Kyl, Jon [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Feb 10, 2005
Sen. Thomas, Craig [R-WY]	R · WY		Feb 10, 2005
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Mar 10, 2005
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Jun 21, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 10, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 534	Related bill	Feb 25, 2005: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.
109 S 366	Related bill	Feb 10, 2005: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
109 S 367	Related bill	Feb 10, 2005: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare Act of 2005 or the HEALTH Act of 2005 - Sets forth provisions regulating lawsuits for health care liability claims concerning the provisions of health care goods or services or any medical product affecting interstate commerce.

Sets a statute of limitations of three years after the date of manifestation of injury or one year after the claimant discovers the injury, with certain exceptions.

Provides that nothing in this Act limits recovery of the full amount of available economic damages. Limits noneconomic damages to \$250,000. Makes each party liable only for the amount of damages directly proportional to such party's percentage of responsibility.

Allows the court to restrict the payment of attorney contingency fees. Limits the fees to a decreasing percentage based on the increasing value of the amount awarded.

Prescribes qualifications for expert witnesses.

Requires the court to reduce damages received by the amount of collateral source benefits to which a claimant is entitled, unless the payor of such benefits has the right to reimbursement or subrogation under Federal or State law.

Authorizes the award of punitive damages only where: (1) it is proven by clear and convincing evidence that a person acted with malicious intent to injure the claimant or deliberately failed to avoid unnecessary injury such person knew the claimant was substantially certain to suffer; and (2) compensatory damages are awarded. Limits punitive damages to the greater of two times the amount of economic damages or \$250,000.

Prohibits a health care provider from being named as a party in a product liability or class action lawsuit for prescribing or dispensing an Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved prescription drug or device.

Provides for periodic payments of future damage awards.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Feb 17, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S1603-1605)
- **Feb 10, 2005:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 10, 2005:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.