

HR 525

Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 2, 2005

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Jul 27, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/525>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]

Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (137 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Akin, W. Todd [R-MO-2]	R · MO		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Biggert, Judy [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Boehner, John A. [R-OH-8]	R · OH		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Bonilla, Henry [R-TX-23]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Bono, Mary [R-CA-45]	R · CA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Bradley, Jeb [R-NH-1]	R · NH		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Brady, Kevin [R-TX-8]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Cantor, Eric [R-VA-7]	R · VA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Cox, Christopher [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Cubin, Barbara [R-WY-At Large]	R · WY		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Culberson, John Abney [R-TX-7]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Cunningham, Randy (Duke) [R-CA-50]	R · CA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Davis, Lincoln [D-TN-4]	D · TN		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Drake, Thelma D. [R-VA-2]	R · VA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Emerson, Jo Ann [R-MO-8]	R · MO		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Foxx, Virginia [R-NC-5]	R · NC		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Gerlach, Jim [R-PA-6]	R · PA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Gillmor, Paul E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Graves, Sam [R-MO-6]	R · MO		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Jindal, Bobby [R-LA-1]	R · LA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Kelly, Sue W. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Kennedy, Mark R. [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-5]	R · IA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Kline, John [R-MN-2]	R · MN		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Manzullo, Donald A. [R-IL-16]	R · IL		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. McHenry, Patrick T. [R-NC-10]	R · NC		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. McHugh, John M. [R-NY-23]	R · NY		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. McIntyre, Mike [D-NC-7]	D · NC		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Miller, Candice S. [R-MI-10]	R · MI		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Neugebauer, Randy [R-TX-19]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Peterson, John E. [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Petri, Thomas E. [R-WI-6]	R · WI		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Platts, Todd Russell [R-PA-19]	R · PA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Pryce, Deborah [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Feb 2, 2005

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Ryan, Paul [R-WI-1]	R · WI		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Shadegg, John B. [R-AZ-3]	R · AZ		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Shays, Christopher [R-CT-4]	R · CT		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Thornberry, Mac [R-TX-13]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Tiberi, Patrick J. [R-OH-12]	R · OH		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Weller, Jerry [R-IL-11]	R · IL		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Westmoreland, Lynn A. [R-GA-8]	R · GA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Wynn, Albert Russell [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Feb 2, 2005
Resident Commissioner Fortuno, Luis G. [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		Feb 2, 2005
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Bachus, Spencer [R-AL-6]	R · AL		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Brown-Waite, Ginny [R-FL-5]	R · FL		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Doolittle, John T. [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. English, Phil [R-PA-3]	R · PA		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Garrett, Scott [R-NJ-5]	R · NJ		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1]	R · TX		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Herger, Wally [R-CA-2]	R · CA		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Hyde, Henry J. [R-IL-6]	R · IL		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Keller, Ric [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. McKeon, Howard P. "Buck" [R-CA-25]	R · CA		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Musgrave, Marilyn N. [R-CO-4]	R · CO		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Northup, Anne M. [R-KY-3]	R · KY		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Pence, Mike [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Rogers, Mike J. [R-MI-8]	R · MI		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]	R · WI		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Shaw, E. Clay, Jr. [R-FL-22]	R · FL		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Bartlett, Roscoe G. [R-MD-6]	R · MD		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ-6]	R · AZ		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. Hostettler, John N. [R-IN-8]	R · IN		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. LaHood, Ray [R-IL-18]	R · IL		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. Miller, Gary G. [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. Murphy, Tim [R-PA-18]	R · PA		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. Myrick, Sue Wilkins [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. Sodrel, Michael E. [R-IN-9]	R · IN		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. Tancredo, Thomas G. [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Feb 9, 2005
Rep. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Feb 10, 2005

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Hefley, Joel [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Feb 10, 2005
Rep. Hensarling, Jeb [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Feb 10, 2005
Rep. Radanovich, George [R-CA-19]	R · CA		Feb 10, 2005
Rep. Rogers, Harold [R-KY-5]	R · KY		Feb 10, 2005
Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]	R · TN		Feb 15, 2005
Rep. Blunt, Roy [R-MO-7]	R · MO		Feb 15, 2005
Rep. Conaway, K. Michael [R-TX-11]	R · TX		Feb 15, 2005
Rep. Everett, Terry [R-AL-2]	R · AL		Feb 15, 2005
Rep. Gingrey, Phil [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Feb 15, 2005
Rep. Rogers, Mike D. [R-AL-3]	R · AL		Feb 15, 2005
Rep. Thomas, William M. [R-CA-22]	R · CA		Feb 15, 2005
Rep. Barrett, J. Gresham [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Feb 17, 2005
Rep. Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [R-LA-7]	R · LA		Feb 17, 2005
Rep. Burton, Dan [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Feb 17, 2005
Rep. Chocoma, Chris [R-IN-2]	R · IN		Mar 1, 2005
Rep. Feeney, Tom [R-FL-24]	R · FL		Mar 1, 2005
Rep. Kolbe, Jim [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Mar 1, 2005
Rep. Oxley, Michael G. [R-OH-4]	R · OH		Mar 1, 2005
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-3]	R · OH		Mar 1, 2005
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Mar 3, 2005
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Mar 3, 2005
Rep. DeLay, Tom [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Mar 8, 2005
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Mar 8, 2005
Rep. Hart, Melissa A. [R-PA-4]	R · PA		Mar 8, 2005
Rep. Knollenberg, Joe [R-MI-9]	R · MI		Mar 8, 2005
Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9]	R · PA		Mar 8, 2005
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Mar 10, 2005
Rep. Bonner, Jo [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Mar 10, 2005
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		Mar 14, 2005
Rep. Fossella, Vito [R-NY-13]	R · NY		Mar 14, 2005
Rep. Hall, Ralph M. [R-TX-4]	R · TX		Mar 14, 2005
Rep. Weldon, Dave [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Mar 14, 2005
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Mar 15, 2005
Rep. Stearns, Cliff [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Mar 15, 2005
Rep. Hobson, David L. [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Mar 16, 2005
Rep. Rehberg, Dennis R. [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Mar 16, 2005
Rep. Sullivan, John [R-OK-1]	R · OK		Mar 16, 2005
Rep. Beauprez, Bob [R-CO-7]	R · CO		Mar 17, 2005
Rep. Gallegly, Elton [R-CA-24]	R · CA		Mar 17, 2005
Rep. Barton, Joe [R-TX-6]	R · TX		Apr 5, 2005
Rep. Cannon, Chris [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Apr 5, 2005
Rep. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL-10]	R · IL		Apr 5, 2005

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Mack, Connie [R-FL-14]	R · FL		Apr 5, 2005
Rep. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS-1]	R · MS		Apr 5, 2005
Rep. Johnson, Timothy V. [R-IL-15]	R · IL		Apr 6, 2005
Rep. Latham, Tom [R-IA-4]	R · IA		Apr 6, 2005
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-44]	R · CA		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Gutknecht, Gil [R-MN-1]	R · MN		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-19]	R · IL		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Towns, Edolphus [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Apr 12, 2005
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2005
Rep. Diaz-Balart, Mario [R-FL-25]	R · FL		Apr 13, 2005
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Apr 13, 2005
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Reported By	Apr 13, 2005
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 27, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 S 406	Related bill	May 9, 2006: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S4173)
109 HRES 379	Procedurally related	Jul 26, 2005: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005 - Amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to provide for establishment and governance of association health plans (AHPs), which are group health plans whose sponsors are trade, industry, professional, chamber of commerce, or similar business associations, and which meet certain ERISA certification requirements. (Thus, through ERISA preemption of State laws, certified AHPs are exempted from State regulation of health insurance providers, including State consumer protection laws and State requirements for health care benefits to be offered by such entities, with certain exceptions.)

(Sec. 2) Establishes rules governing AHPs, including requirements relating to certification, sponsors and boards of trustees, participation and coverage, nondiscrimination, plan documents, contribution rates, benefit options, applications for certification, notice of voluntary termination, corrective actions, and mandatory termination.

Requires AHPs which provide health benefits in addition to health insurance coverage to maintain certain reserves and comply with other solvency requirements.

Directs the Secretary of Labor to apply for appointment, and carry out specified duties, as trustee of any insolvent AHPs which provide health benefits in addition to health insurance coverage.

Allows a State to impose a contribution tax on any AHP commencing operations in such State after the enactment of this Act. Sets forth limits on such tax, including reduction by the amount of any tax or assessment otherwise imposed by the State on specified other insurance related items maintained by the AHP.

Requires AHPs 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.

Allows a certified AHP to exist in a State regardless of any State law that would preclude it.

Preempts State requirements for benefits to be offered by AHPs; but allows a State in which an AHP is domiciled to require the domiciled AHP to cover particular types of diseases and conditions. Allows health insurance issuers to offer coverage of the same policy type offered in connection with a particular AHP to eligible employers, regardless of whether such employers are members of the particular association and regardless of State law. Deems health insurance coverage policy forms filed and approved in a particular State in connection with an insurer's offering under an AHP as approved in any other State in which such coverage is offered when the insurer provides a complete filing in the same form and manner to the authority in the other State.

Makes inapplicable to certified AHPs certain current ERISA provisions which allow State regulation of multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWAs). Revises ERISA preemption rules to permit State regulation of self-insured MEWAs providing medical care which do not elect to meet the certification requirements for AHPs.

Directs the Secretary to report to specified congressional committees by January 1, 2010, on the effect, if any, AHPs have had on the number of uninsured individuals.

(Sec. 3) Revises requirements for treatment of single employer arrangements. Allows two or more trades or businesses to be deemed a single employer if they are in the same control group offering medical care benefits, under specified

conditions.

(Sec. 4) Provides for enforcement of AHP requirements, including criminal penalties for certain willful misrepresentations, issuance of cease and desist orders, and the responsibility of AHP boards of trustees for certain claims procedures.

(Sec. 5) Directs the Secretary, regarding the exercise of authority, to consult only with the recognized primary domicile State for an AHP.

(Sec. 6) Provides for transitional and other rules relating to treatment of certain existing health benefit programs.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 27, 2005:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
- **Jul 26, 2005:** Rule H. Res. 379 passed House.
- **Jul 26, 2005:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 379. (consideration: CR H6477-6509; text of measure as reported in House: CR H6478-6484)
- **Jul 26, 2005:** Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 525 with 1 hour of general debate. Previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motions except motion to recommit with or without instructions. Measure will be considered read. A specified amendment is in order.
- **Jul 26, 2005:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with one hour of debate on H.R. 525.
- **Jul 26, 2005:** DEBATE - Pursuant to H. Res. 379, the House proceeded with 60 minutes of debate on the Kind amendment in the nature of a substitute.
- **Jul 26, 2005:** Mr. Miller, George moved to recommit with instructions to Education and the Workforce. (consideration: CR H6506-6508; text: CR H6506-6507)
- **Jul 26, 2005:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Miller, George motion to recommit with instructions.
- **Jul 26, 2005:** The previous question on the motion to recommit with instructions was ordered without objection. (consideration: CR H6507)
- **Jul 26, 2005:** On motion to recommit with instructions Failed by the Yeas and Nays: 198 - 230 (Roll no. 425).
- **Jul 26, 2005:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 263 - 165 (Roll no. 426).(text: CR H6478-6484)
- **Jul 26, 2005:** On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 263 - 165 (Roll no. 426). (text: CR H6478-6484)
- **Jul 26, 2005:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 25, 2005:** Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 379 Reported to House. Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 525 with 1 hour of general debate. Previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motions except motion to recommit with or without instructions. Measure will be considered read. A specified amendment is in order.
- **Apr 13, 2005:** Reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce. H. Rept. 109-41.
- **Apr 13, 2005:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 22.
- **Mar 16, 2005:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 16, 2005:** Ordered to be Reported by the Yeas and Nays: 25 - 22.
- **Mar 15, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H1427)
- **Feb 2, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 2, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E150)
- **Feb 2, 2005:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legiList.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legiList.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legiList.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legiList.com