

S 3554

Affordable Coverage for Small Employers Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Sep 24, 2008

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sep 24, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/3554>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [R-OR]

Party: Republican • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Sep 24, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 24, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Affordable Coverage for Small Employers Act of 2008 - Establishes the National Health Coverage Policy Board as an independent agency to oversee a program to provide health insurance coverage to small employers and their employees.

Directs the Policy Board to: (1) determine a comprehensive, quality, and affordable standard benefit package similar to that provided under specified large federal employees health benefits (FEHB) plans; (2) apportion the United States into regions with no less than two states each; (3) establish a Regional Health Coverage Exchange for each region to serve as a central purchasing site for health coverage, to provide information about plans, to facilitate enrollment, and to ensure health plan compliance with requirements; and (4) establish the Regional Health Coverage Exchange Board.

Requires the Regional Board to develop common rating guidelines relating to the health insurance market for small employers. Directs each state to enact laws necessary to regulate its small group insurance market in accordance with such guidelines. Authorizes states to permit sole proprietors and individuals to purchase coverage through the Exchange.

Sets forth requirements for a health insurance issuer to offer health care coverage through an Exchange.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) allow a refundable tax credit for taxpayer premiums for qualified health insurance purchased through an Exchange; (2) allow a refundable tax credit for small employer contributions toward the cost of such employee health insurance; and (3) provide for advance payment of such tax credits.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 24, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 24, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S9417-9419)
- **Sep 24, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.