

HR 5739

Physician Availability Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Apr 9, 2008

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. (Apr 10, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/5739>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]

Party: Democratic • State: IL • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Apr 9, 2008
Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Apr 10, 2008
Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jun 19, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 10, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Physician Availability Act of 2008 - Requires each covered hospital to have a qualified physician available in the hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to attend to the needs of the hospital's inpatients.

Defines a "covered hospital" to: (1) include hospitals participating in Medicare or Medicaid or receiving federal funds; and (2) exclude hospitals in a federal facility or hospitals that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines have fewer than 100 licensed beds.

Considers a physician to be available if: (1) the physician is physically present in the hospital; (2) the physician's primary responsibility is to be in attendance to serve the needs of the hospital's inpatients without delay; and (3) the physician is not physically present in, assigned to, serving in, or expected to cover the hospital's emergency room or emergency department.

Sets forth penalties for violations.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 10, 2008:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials.
- **Apr 9, 2008:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 9, 2008:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.