

S 1152

Healthy Families Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: May 21, 2009

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (May 21, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1152>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (24 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 21, 2009
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		May 21, 2009
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 21, 2009
Sen. Burris, Roland [D-IL]	D · IL		May 21, 2009
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		May 21, 2009
Sen. Dodd, Christopher J. [D-CT]	D · CT		May 21, 2009
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 21, 2009
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		May 21, 2009
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 21, 2009
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		May 21, 2009
Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 21, 2009
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		May 21, 2009
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 21, 2009
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 21, 2009
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		May 21, 2009
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 21, 2009
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 21, 2009
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		May 21, 2009
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 21, 2009
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 21, 2009
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Sep 16, 2009
Sen. Kirk, Paul Grattan, Jr. [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 17, 2009
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 17, 2009
Sen. Specter, Arlen [D-PA]	D · PA		Dec 4, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 21, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 2460	Identical bill	Jun 11, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Summary (as of May 21, 2009)

Healthy Families Act - Requires certain employers, who employ 15 or more employees for each working day during 20 or more workweeks a year, to permit each employee to earn at least one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked.

Declares that an employer shall not be required to permit an employee to earn more than 56 hours of paid sick time in a calendar year, unless the employer chooses to set a higher limit.

Allows employees to use such time to: (1) meet their own medical needs; (2) care for the medical needs of certain family members; or (3) seek medical attention, assist a related person, take legal action, or engage in other specified activities relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Prohibits an employer from interfering with an employee's exercise of such rights.

Directs the Secretary of Labor to exercise certain investigative and enforcement authority for employees covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 or the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991. Grants the same authority, for employees under their jurisdiction, to the Librarian of Congress, the Comptroller General, the Board of Directors of the congressional Office of Compliance, and the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Authorizes civil actions by employees, individuals, or their representatives for damages or equitable relief against employers who violate this Act.

Waives a state's sovereign immunity with respect to a suit brought by an employee of a federally-assisted state program or activity for relief authorized under this Act.

Requires the Commissioner of Labor Statistics annually to compile information annually on paid sick time, and the Comptroller General to study related matters.

Declares that nothing in this Act shall be construed to discourage employers from adopting or retaining more generous leave policies.

Actions Timeline

- **May 21, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 21, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S5874)
- **May 21, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.