

## HR 2399

American Health Benefits Program Act of 2009

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** May 13, 2009

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (May 14, 2009)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/2399>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** RI • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	May 14, 2009
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	May 13, 2009

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

American Health Benefits Program Act of 2009 - Amends the Social Security Act (SSA) to establish under a new title XXII (American Health Benefits Program) a program to provide comprehensive health insurance coverage to all Americans who are: (1) not covered under certain federal health insurance programs; and (2) not eligible for employer-provided insurance coverage. Requires provision of such coverage in a manner similar to that in which coverage has been provided to Members of Congress, federal government employees, retirees, and their dependents under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

Requires federal government contributions towards the coverage of eligible individuals.

Establishes in the Treasury an American Health Benefits Program Trust Fund.

Directs the Administrator of Health Benefits to establish a schedule of cost-sharing subsidies for lower-income individuals.

Establishes an independent Health Benefits Administration, headed by the Administrator.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) impose a premium on individuals enrolled in a qualified health plan under SSA title XXII, which shall be reduced by the amount of government contribution; (2) allow a tax credit to covered individuals equal to the sum of the aggregate amount of premiums paid (other than government contributions) with respect to the individual's coverage, and the applicable premium subsidy; (3) impose on every employer an excise tax equal to the applicable percentage of the wages paid employees; (4) allow a tax credit against such excise tax for periods during which an employee is covered by qualified employer-provided coverage; and (5) impose a tax on hospital revenues.

Makes related amendments to SSA titles XIX (Medicaid) and XXI (CHIP, formerly known as SCHIP).

Directs the Administrator of Health Benefits to establish new guidelines that promote the proper use and understanding of health information technologies.

Establishes the Health Benefits Commission in the legislative branch to examine and make recommendations regarding the major issues and cost drivers affecting the delivery of healthcare services as it pertains to the American Health Benefits Program.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 14, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **May 13, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **May 13, 2009:** Referred to House Ways and Means
- **May 13, 2009:** Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **May 13, 2009:** Referred to House Energy and Commerce