

S 631

Healthy Families Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Mar 20, 2013

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2030-2035) (Mar 20, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/631>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]

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

Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Cowan, William M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 20, 2013
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Apr 8, 2013
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 13, 2013
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 11, 2013
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Sep 18, 2014
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 18, 2014
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Dec 9, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 20, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 5849	Related bill	Dec 11, 2014: Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and the Judiciary, 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.
113 HR 1286	Identical bill	Apr 23, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Summary (as of Mar 20, 2013)

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 1 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 (including a domestic partner or the domestic partner's parent or child); 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 (GAO), 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 to annually compile information 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

- **Mar 20, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 20, 2013:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2029-2030)
- **Mar 20, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2030-2035)