
HR 1638

Physician Availability Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 25, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Mar 27, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1638>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 27, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Physician Availability Act of 2015

Requires each covered hospital to have a qualified physician available in the hospital at all times 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 Department 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

- **Mar 27, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Mar 25, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 25, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.