

S 1697

Small Business Healthcare Relief Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jun 25, 2015

Current Status: Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-675.

Latest Action: Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-675. (May 18, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1697>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]

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

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Jun 25, 2015
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Dec 10, 2015
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Dec 10, 2015
Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]	R · WI		Dec 10, 2015
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Dec 10, 2015
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Dec 10, 2015
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Dec 10, 2015
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Dec 10, 2015
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Dec 10, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Dec 15, 2015
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Dec 17, 2015
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jan 11, 2016
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Feb 25, 2016
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		Apr 13, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 25, 2015
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 18, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2911	Related bill	Nov 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Jun 25, 2015)

Small Business Healthcare Relief Act

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to allow an employer with fewer than 50 employees that does not offer group health insurance coverage to establish a health reimbursement arrangement. Under the arrangement, funds contributed by an employer are excluded from the employer's taxable income and are used to pay or reimburse employees for medical care expenses, including premiums for individual health insurance coverage or Medicare supplemental insurance.

Such a reimbursement arrangement: (1) must not pay premiums for an employee covered by a family member's coverage, (2) must be offered to all eligible employees on the same terms and may only vary based on the number of individuals covered, and (3) is not required to provide continuation coverage.

Employer contributions to a reimbursement arrangement are not included in an employee's gross income if the employee was covered by the reimbursement arrangement for more than nine months of the year. Employees covered for less than nine months have a percentage of employer contributions included in their gross income, with exceptions.

An employee offered affordable individual health insurance coverage under a reimbursement arrangement is not eligible for a premium assistance tax credit.

Employers must report contributions to a reimbursement arrangement on their employees' W-2.

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to exempt reimbursement arrangements from requirements for health insurance coverage. Insurance offered under a reimbursement arrangement remains subject to the requirements.

Actions Timeline

- **May 18, 2016:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-675.
- **Jun 25, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 25, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S4652)