

HR 1856

Employee Benefits Protection Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Apr 16, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions. (Nov 16, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1856>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]

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

Cosponsors (17 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		May 15, 2015
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Jun 3, 2015
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jun 10, 2015
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jun 23, 2015
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Jul 23, 2015
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Sep 10, 2015
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Sep 10, 2015
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Sep 11, 2015
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Sep 18, 2015
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Sep 24, 2015
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Sep 24, 2015
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]	D · NC		Oct 23, 2015
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Jan 28, 2016
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Sep 6, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Apr 16, 2015)

Employee Benefits Protection Act of 2015

Amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to require the mandatory summary description of a group health plan to declare: (1) whether the plan permits either the plan sponsor or any participating employer to unilaterally modify or terminate plan benefits affecting employees, retirees, and beneficiaries; and (2) when and to what extent plan benefits are fully vested with respect to these individuals.

Presumes that retiree health benefits cannot be modified or terminated as of the date an employee retires or completes 20 years of service with the employer. Allows this presumption to be overcome only upon a showing, by clear and convincing evidence, that the employee, before becoming a plan participant, was made aware, in clear and unambiguous terms, that the plan allowed for such a modification or termination of benefits.

Amends the National Labor Relations Act to make it an unfair labor practice for a labor organization and employer to enter into a contract or agreement to modify a previous agreement in a manner that results in a reduction or termination of retiree health insurance benefits, if the modification occurs after the retiree's retirement date.

Directs the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on strategies used by corporations to avoid obligations to pay promised employee and retiree benefits.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.
- **Apr 16, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 16, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.