

## HR 1613

### HELP for Coal Miners Health Care Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Labor and Employment

**Introduced:** Mar 17, 2017

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. (Mar 27, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1613>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Mar 17, 2017
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Mar 22, 2017
Rep. Comer, James [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Mar 27, 2017
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-15]	R · IL		Apr 6, 2017

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 27, 2017
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 17, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 176	Related bill	Jan 17, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S343-344)

## **Helping Ensure Long-Term Protection for Coal Miners Health Care Act of 2017 or the HELP for Coal Miners Health Care Act of 2017**

This bill amends the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan to provide health benefits to retired coal miners and their families.

The bill expands the group whose retiree health benefits are taken into account in determining the amount that the Department of the Treasury must transfer from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and the General Fund of the Treasury to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan.

The Government Accountability Office must study the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and submit to Congress reports analyzing whether federal funds are being spent appropriately by the plan.

The bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to repeal requirements for current and former signatories to labor agreements with the United Mineworkers of America to pay unassigned beneficiaries premiums or backstop premiums if transfers under SMCRA are less than the amount required to be transferred.

### **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Mar 27, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.
- **Mar 17, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 17, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.