

S 176

HELP for Coal Miners Health Care Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Jan 17, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S343-344)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S343-344) (Jan 17, 2017)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/176

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]

Party: Republican • State: KY • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jan 30, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 17, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 1613	Related bill	Mar 27, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

## **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**

---

- **Jan 17, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 17, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S343-344)