

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 685

To establish an expedited procedure for congressional consideration of health care reform legislation.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2007

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish an expedited procedure for congressional consideration of health care reform legislation.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reform Health Care  
5 Now Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENATE CONSIDERATION OF HEALTH CARE RE-**  
7 **FORM LEGISLATION.**

8 (a) INTRODUCTION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 calendar  
10 days after the commencement of the session of Con-

1       gress that follows the date of enactment of this Act,  
2       the chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Edu-  
3       cation, Labor, and Pensions, the Chair of the Senate  
4       Committee on Finance, the Majority Leader of the  
5       Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate shall  
6       each introduce a bill to provide a significant increase  
7       in access to health care coverage for the people of  
8       the United States.

9               (2) MINORITY PARTY.—These bills may be in-  
10       troduced by request and only 1 qualified bill may be  
11       introduced by each individual referred to in para-  
12       graph (1) within a Congress. If either committee  
13       chair fails to introduce the bill within the 30-day pe-  
14       riod, the ranking minority party member of the re-  
15       spective committee may instead introduce a bill that  
16       will qualify for the expedited procedure provided in  
17       this section.

18               (3) QUALIFIED BILL.—

19                       (A) IN GENERAL.—In order to qualify as a  
20       qualified bill—

21                               (i) the title of the bill shall be “To re-  
22       form the health care system of the United  
23       States and to provide insurance coverage  
24       for Americans.”;

1 (ii) the bill shall reach the goal of pro-  
2 viding health care coverage to 95 percent  
3 of Americans within 10 years; and

4 (iii) the bill shall be deficit neutral.

5 (B) DETERMINATION.—Whether or not a  
6 bill meets the criteria in subparagraph (A) shall  
7 be determined by the Chair of the Senate Budg-  
8 et Committee, relying on estimates of the Con-  
9 gressional Budget Office, subject to the final  
10 approval of the Senate.

11 (b) REFERRAL.—

12 (1) COMMITTEE BILLS.—Upon introduction, the  
13 bill authored by the Chair of the Senate Committee  
14 on Finance shall be referred to that Committee and  
15 the bill introduced by the Chair of the Senate Com-  
16 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
17 shall be referred to that committee. If either com-  
18 mittee has not reported the bill referred to it (or an-  
19 other qualified bill) by the end of a 60 calendar-day  
20 period beginning on the date of referral, the com-  
21 mittee is, as of that date, automatically discharged  
22 from further consideration of the bill, and the bill is  
23 placed directly on the chamber’s legislative calendar.  
24 In calculating the 60-day period, adjournments for  
25 more than 3 days are not counted.

1           (2) LEADER BILLS.—The bills introduced by  
2 the Senate Majority Leader and the Senate Minority  
3 Leader shall, on introduction, be placed directly on  
4 the Senate Calendar of Business.

5 (c) MOTION TO PROCEED.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—On or after the third day  
7 following the committee report or discharge or upon  
8 a bill being placed on the calendar under subsection  
9 (b)(2), it shall be in order for any Member, after  
10 consultation with the Majority Leader, to move to  
11 proceed to the consideration of any qualified bill.  
12 Notice shall first be given before proceeding. This  
13 motion to proceed to the consideration of a bill can  
14 be offered by a Member only on the day after the  
15 calendar day on which the Member announces the  
16 Member's intention to offer it.

17           (2) CONSIDERATION.—The motion to proceed  
18 to a given qualified bill can be made even if a motion  
19 to the same effect has previously been rejected. No  
20 more than 3 such motions may be made, however,  
21 in any 1 congressional session.

22           (3) PRIVILEGED AND NONDEBATABLE.—The  
23 motion to proceed is privileged, and all points of  
24 order against the motion to proceed to consideration  
25 and its consideration are waived. The motion is not

1 debatable, is not amendable, and is not subject to a  
2 motion to postpone.

3 (4) NO OTHER BUSINESS OR RECONSIDER-  
4 ATION.—The motion is not subject to a motion to  
5 proceed to the consideration of other business. A  
6 motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion  
7 to proceed is agreed to or disagreed to is not in  
8 order.

9 (d) CONSIDERATION OF QUALIFIED BILL.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the motion to proceed is  
11 adopted, the chamber shall immediately proceed to  
12 the consideration of a qualified bill without inter-  
13 vening motion, order, or other business, and the bill  
14 remains the unfinished business of the Senate until  
15 disposed of. A motion to limit debate is in order and  
16 is not debatable.

17 (2) ONLY BUSINESS.—The qualified bill is not  
18 subject to a motion to postpone or a motion to pro-  
19 ceed to the consideration of other business before  
20 the bill is disposed of.

21 (3) RELEVANT AMENDMENTS.—Only relevant  
22 amendments may be offered to the bill.

23 **SEC. 3. HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF HEALTH CARE REFORM**  
24 **LEGISLATION.**

25 (a) INTRODUCTION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 calendar  
2 days after the commencement of the session of Con-  
3 gress that follows the date of enactment of this Act,  
4 the chair of the House Committee on Energy and  
5 Commerce, the chair of the House Committee on  
6 Ways and Means, the Majority Leader of the House,  
7 and the Minority Leader of the House shall each in-  
8 troduce a bill to provide a significant increase in ac-  
9 cess to health care coverage for the people of the  
10 United States.

11           (2) MINORITY PARTY.—These bills may be in-  
12 troduced by request and only 1 qualified bill may be  
13 introduced by each individual referred to in para-  
14 graph (1) within a Congress. If either committee  
15 chair fails to introduce the bill within the 30-day pe-  
16 riod, the ranking minority party member of the re-  
17 spective committee may, within the following 30  
18 days, instead introduce a bill that will qualify for the  
19 expedited procedure provided in this section.

20           (3) QUALIFIED BILL.—

21           (A) IN GENERAL.—To qualify for the expe-  
22 dited procedure under this section as a qualified  
23 bill, the bill shall—

1 (i) reach the goal of providing  
2 healthcare coverage to 95 percent of Amer-  
3 icans within 10 years; and

4 (ii) be deficit neutral.

5 (B) DETERMINATION.—Whether or not a  
6 bill meets the criteria in subparagraph (A) shall  
7 be determined by the Speaker’s ruling on a  
8 point of order based on a Congressional Budget  
9 Office estimate of the bill.

10 (b) REFERRAL.—

11 (1) COMMITTEE BILLS.—Upon introduction, the  
12 bill authored by the Chair of the House Committee  
13 on Energy and Commerce shall be referred to that  
14 committee and the bill introduced by the Chair of  
15 the House Committee on Ways and Means shall be  
16 referred to that committee. If either committee has  
17 not reported the bill referred to it (or another quali-  
18 fied bill) by the end of 60 days of consideration be-  
19 ginning on the date of referral, the committee shall  
20 be automatically discharged from further consider-  
21 ation of the bill, and the bill shall be placed directly  
22 on the Calendar of the Whole House on the State  
23 of the Union. In calculating the 60-day period, ad-  
24 journments for more than 3 days are not counted.

1           (2) LEADER BILLS.—The bills introduced by  
2 the House Majority Leader and House Minority  
3 Leader will, on introduction, be placed directly on  
4 the Calendar of the Whole House on the State of the  
5 Union.

6           (c) MOTION TO PROCEED.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—On or after the third day  
8 following the committee report or discharge or upon  
9 a bill being placed on the calendar under subsection  
10 (b)(2), it shall be in order for any Member, after  
11 consultation with the Majority Leader, to move to  
12 proceed to the consideration of any qualified bill.  
13 Notice must first be given before proceeding. This  
14 motion to proceed to the consideration of a bill can  
15 be offered by a Member only on the day after the  
16 calendar day on which the Member announces the  
17 Member's intention to offer it.

18           (2) CONSIDERATION.—The motion to proceed  
19 to a given qualified bill can be made even if a motion  
20 to the same effect has previously been rejected. No  
21 more than 3 such motions may be made, however,  
22 in any 1 congressional session.

23           (3) PRIVILEGED AND NONDEBATABLE.—The  
24 motion to proceed is privileged, and all points of  
25 order against the motion to proceed to consideration

1 and its consideration are waived. The motion is not  
 2 debatable, is not amendable, and is not subject to a  
 3 motion to postpone.

4 (4) NO OTHER BUSINESS OR RECONSIDER-  
 5 ATION.—The motion is not subject to a motion to  
 6 proceed to the consideration of other business. A  
 7 motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion  
 8 to proceed is agreed to or disagreed to is not in  
 9 order.

10 (d) CONSIDERATION OF A QUALIFIED BILL.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the motion to proceed is  
 12 adopted, the chamber will immediately proceed to  
 13 the consideration of a qualified bill without inter-  
 14 vening motion, order, or other business, and the bill  
 15 remains the unfinished business of the House until  
 16 disposed of.

17 (2) COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.—The bill will  
 18 be considered in the Committee of the Whole under  
 19 the 5-minute rule, and the bill shall be considered as  
 20 read and open for amendment at any time.

21 (3) LIMIT DEBATE.—A motion to further limit  
 22 debate is in order and is not debatable.

23 (4) RELEVANT AMENDMENTS.—Only relevant  
 24 amendments may be offered to the bill.

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