

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 685

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

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

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.

○