

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4905

To establish the Energy Workers Compensation Fund to compensate energy workers for certain medical expenses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Mr. VASQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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

A BILL

To establish the Energy Workers Compensation Fund to compensate energy workers for certain medical expenses.

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 “Energy Workers
5 Health Improvement and Compensation Fund Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENERGY WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND.**

7 (a) CREATION OF TRUST FUND.—There is estab-
8 lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund

1 to be known as the “Energy Workers Health Compensa-
2 tion Fund”.

3 (b) DEPOSITS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each oil company shall pay
5 with respect to each calendar year (not later than
6 March 31 of the calendar year immediately following
7 such calendar year) an amount equal to the aggre-
8 gate amounts paid as compensation (including the
9 fair market value of any deferred compensation) to
10 the 10 most highly paid (taking into account all
11 compensation taken into account under this sub-
12 section) employees of such company during such cal-
13 endar year. Such amounts shall be deposited into the
14 Energy Workers Health Compensation Fund.

15 (2) PENALTIES FOR UNDERPAYMENTS.—If the
16 Secretary of Labor determines that the amount paid
17 by any oil company with respect to any calendar
18 year is less than 98 percent of the amount properly
19 determined under paragraph (1), such oil company
20 shall pay an additional amount equal to 10 percent
21 of such difference. Such amount shall be deposited
22 into the Energy Workers Health Compensation
23 Fund.

24 (3) ELECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS.—An oil com-
25 pany may contribute, in addition to any amount re-

1 quired to be paid under paragraph (1) or (2), an ad-
2 ditional amount to the Energy Workers Health Com-
3 pensation Fund not in excess of the amount required
4 to be paid under paragraph (1).

5 (4) TAX TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—No
6 deduction shall be allowed under section 162 (or any
7 other provision) of the Internal Revenue Code of
8 1986 for any amount required to be paid under
9 paragraph (1) or (2) or any amount contributed to
10 the Energy Workers Health Compensation Fund
11 which is in excess of the amount permitted under
12 paragraph (3).

13 (c) EXPENDITURES.—Amounts in the compensation
14 fund shall be available to the Secretary of Labor, without
15 need of further appropriation, for the purposes of section
16 3.

17 **SEC. 3. COMPENSATION FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible worker, or family
19 member thereof, shall be entitled to compensation in order
20 to reimburse such eligible worker (or family member there-
21 of) for medical expenses, including copayments and costs
22 not covered by private insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid,
23 associated with—

24 (1) asthma;

25 (2) heat-related illness; and

1 (3) other respiratory or cardiovascular diseases
2 determined by the Secretary, in consultation with
3 the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational
4 Safety and Health, to be associated with methane
5 emissions, high levels of smog, and exposure to par-
6 ticulate matter and volatile organic compounds.

7 (b) PAYMENT FROM TRUST FUND.—The compensa-
8 tion under this section shall be paid from the compensa-
9 tion fund established under section 2.

10 (c) PROCESSING OF CLAIMS.—The Secretary shall
11 provide the compensation to which an individual is entitled
12 under subparagraph (a) in the order in which claims for
13 compensation are received.

14 **SEC. 4. IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
17 tablish and appoint all members of a commission on health
18 outcomes of oil and gas workers.

19 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
21 composed of members who represent diverse experi-
22 ences and backgrounds that provide balanced points
23 of view with regard to the duties of the Commission.

1 (2) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall ap-
2 point the members to the Commission, including
3 representatives—

4 (A) from—

5 (i) the Department of Health and
6 Human Services;

7 (ii) the Department of Labor;

8 (iii) the National Institutes of Health,
9 who shall be a doctor who does research
10 into the subject matter of the Commission;

11 (iv) the Occupation Safety and Health
12 Administration;

13 (v) an immigration advocacy group;

14 and

15 (vi) a labor advocacy group; and

16 (B) who are eligible workers employed by
17 oil companies, including one such representative
18 from each of the following States:

19 (i) Alaska.

20 (ii) Colorado.

21 (iii) Louisiana.

22 (iv) New Mexico.

23 (v) North Dakota.

24 (vi) Texas.

1 (3) PERIODS OF APPOINTMENT.—Members
2 shall be appointed for the duration of the Commis-
3 sion.

4 (4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
5 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
6 appointment was made and shall not affect the pow-
7 ers or duties of the Commission.

8 (5) COMPENSATION.—Commission members
9 shall serve without compensation.

10 (6) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall
11 consider the provision of travel expenses, including
12 per diem, to Commission members when appro-
13 priate.

14 (c) DUTIES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may hold
16 such hearings, meet and act at times and places,
17 take such testimony, and receive such evidence as
18 the Commission considers to be advisable to carry
19 out the duties of the Commission under this section.

20 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT
21 OF LABOR.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
23 develop recommendations to the Secretary on
24 actions the Federal Government can take to

1 study and improve health outcomes of oil and
2 gas workers.

3 (B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 18
4 months after the enactment of this Act, the
5 Commission shall make publicly available and
6 submit all recommendations developed under
7 this paragraph to—

8 (i) the Secretary;

9 (ii) the Committee on Energy and
10 Natural Resources of the Senate;

11 (iii) the Committee on Health, Edu-
12 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

13 (iv) the Committee on Energy and
14 Commerce of the House of Representa-
15 tives; and

16 (v) the Committee on Natural Re-
17 sources of the House of Representatives.

18 (C) SECRETARIAL RESPONSE.—Not later
19 than 90 days after the date on which the Sec-
20 retary receives the recommendations under
21 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall make pub-
22 licly available and submit a written response to
23 the recommendations to—

24 (i) the Commission;

- 1 (ii) the Committee on Energy and
- 2 Natural Resources of the Senate;
- 3 (iii) the Committee on Health, Edu-
- 4 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;
- 5 (iv) the Committee on Energy and
- 6 Commerce of the House of Representa-
- 7 tives; and
- 8 (v) the Committee on Natural Re-
- 9 sources of the House of Representatives.

10 **SEC. 5. REPORT TO COMMISSION.**

11 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
12 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of
13 Labor shall report to the Commission established under
14 section 4(a) on the compensation fund, including—

- 15 (1) deposits required under section 2(b); and
- 16 (2) compensation paid under section 3.

17 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

- 19 (1) **ELIGIBLE WORKER.**—The term “eligible
- 20 worker” means any individual who—
- 21 (A) either—
- 22 (i) works or has worked within or
- 23 around a oil and gas extraction or explo-
- 24 ration site for not less than 1 year; or

1 (ii) lives or has lived within 20 miles
2 of such a site for not less than 1 year; and

3 (B) works or has worked for an oil com-
4 pany engaged in oil and gas extraction or explo-
5 ration or for a company contracted to perform
6 those duties.

7 (2) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “family mem-
8 ber” means the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of
9 an eligible worker, if such spouse, son, daughter, or
10 parent lives or has lived within 20 miles of an oil
11 and gas extraction or exploration site for not less
12 than 1 year.

13 (3) OIL COMPANY.—The term “oil company”
14 means a company engaged in oil or natural gas ex-
15 ploration or extraction with annual revenue greater
16 than \$50,000,000.

17 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Labor.

19 (5) COMPENSATION FUND.—The term “com-
20 pensation fund” means the Energy Workers Health
21 Compensation Fund established under section 2.

○