

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2576

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2004

Mr. FEINGOLD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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 “Health Care Reform
5 Expedited Procedures Act of 2004”.

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 first session of

1 a Congress, the chair of the Senate Committee on
2 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Chair
3 of the Senate Committee on Finance, the Majority
4 Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of
5 the Senate shall each introduce a bill to provide uni-
6 versal health care coverage for the people of the
7 United States.

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

17 (3) QUALIFIED BILL.—

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

20 (i) the title of the bill shall be “To re-
21 form the system of the United States and
22 to provide insurance coverage for all Amer-
23 icans.”; and

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

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

10 (b) REFERRAL.—

11 (1) COMMITTEE BILLS.—Upon introduction, the
12 bill authored by the Chair of the Senate Committee
13 on Finance shall be referred to that Committee and
14 the bill introduced by the Chair of the Senate Com-
15 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
16 shall be referred to that committee. If either com-
17 mittee has not reported the bill referred to it (or an-
18 other qualified bill) by the end of a 60 calendar-day
19 period beginning on the date of referral, the com-
20 mittee is, as of that date, automatically discharged
21 from further consideration of the bill, and the bill is
22 placed directly on the chamber’s legislative calendar.
23 In calculating the 60-day period, adjournments for
24 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 his or
16 her 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 first session of
3 a Congress, the chair of the House Committee on
4 Energy and Commerce, the chair of the House Com-
5 mittee on Ways and Means, the Majority Leader of
6 the House, and the Minority Leader of the House
7 shall each introduce a bill to provide universal health
8 care coverage for the people of 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, within the following 30
16 days, instead introduce a bill that will qualify for the
17 expedited procedure provided in this section.

18 (3) QUALIFIED BILL.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—To qualify for the expe-
20 dited procedure under this section as a qualified
21 bill, the bill shall reach the goal of providing
22 healthcare coverage to 95 percent of Americans
23 within 10 years.

24 (B) DETERMINATION.—Whether or not a
25 bill meets the criteria in subparagraph (A) shall

1 be determined by the Speaker's ruling on a
2 point of order based on a Congressional Budget
3 Office estimate of the bill.

4 (b) REFERRAL.—

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

19 (2) LEADER BILLS.—The bills introduced by
20 the House Majority Leader and House Minority
21 Leader will, on introduction, be placed directly on
22 the Calendar of the Whole House on the State of the
23 Union.

24 (c) MOTION TO PROCEED.—

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

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

17 (3) PRIVILEGED AND NONDEBATABLE.—The
18 motion to proceed is privileged, and all points of
19 order against the motion to proceed to consideration
20 and its consideration are waived. The motion is not
21 debatable, is not amendable, and is not subject to a
22 motion to postpone.

23 (4) NO OTHER BUSINESS OR RECONSIDER-
24 ATION.—The motion is not subject to a motion to
25 proceed to the consideration of other business. A

1 motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion
2 to proceed is agreed to or disagreed to is not in
3 order.

4 (d) CONSIDERATION OF A QUALIFIED BILL.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the motion to proceed is
6 adopted, the chamber will immediately proceed to
7 the consideration of a qualified bill without inter-
8 vening motion, order, or other business, and the bill
9 remains the unfinished business of the House until
10 disposed of.

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

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

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

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