

HCS HB 2465 -- SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE AVAILABILITY ACT

SPONSOR: Jones (12)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Commerce by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2465.

Currently, an eligible employee for small employer health insurance is an employee who works on a full-time basis and has a normal work week of 30 or more hours.

The bill removes the provision that an employee, his or her spouse, and his or her minor children only count as one eligible employee when they are employed by the same small employer.

This bill would allow for those family members to be counted as separate eligible employees.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides more healthcare options for small businesses. The bill will allow for single employee businesses to receive health insurance through their business, and add their family members. The bill will allow small business owners and employees to save money and receive healthcare.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Jones; National Federation of Independent Business; James P. Lyen, Lyen Enterprises LLC/Lyen Consulting; John R. Davis Jr; and Arnie Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.