



H.R. 5669 – Poison Center Support, Enhancement, and Awareness Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5669 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Edolphus Towns (D-NY) on April 1, 2008. The bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 7, 2008.

H.R. 5669 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 4, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5669 reauthorizes the Poison Control Program, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The bill additionally authorizes the following appropriations:

- \$27.5 million per year for 2008 and 2009 as well as \$35 million per year for the years 2010 through 2014 for the grant program. This program establishes best practices for poison prevention and outreach, develops and implements standard patient management guidelines for common toxic exposures as well as supports and expands the toxicologic expertise within poison centers;
- \$2 million each for 2008 and 2009 as well as \$1 million per year for the toll-free poison control telephone number for the years 2010-2014; and
- Authorizes such sums as necessary for the years 2008 and 2009, as well as \$1,500,000 for the years 2010-2014 to expand the national poison control media campaign and quantitatively evaluate the impact of the nationwide media campaign.

BACKGROUND

Poison Control Centers were initially codified into law in 2000 (P.L. 106-74) and were most recently authorized by the Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act, Amendments of 2003 (P.L. 108-194).

Poison Control Centers provide treatment advice and educational services as well as collect poisoning data to detect instances of poisoning outbreaks. The HRSA Poison Control Program provides grants to certified Poison Control Centers in the U.S. and programs to increase poison education, prevention and treatment. The Poison Control Program also maintains a website and national toll-free number which connects callers with regional Poison Control Centers.

In the United States, poisoning is the second most common form of unintentional death. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, older adults are more likely than others to die from poisonings. These adults account for five percent of possible poisonings but for 16 percent of fatalities.

[HRSA Poison Control website](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 5669 “would cost \$11 million in 2010 and \$135 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of authorized amounts.”

[Full CBO Cost Estimate for H.R. 5669](#)



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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