

## The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), commonly referred to as the "Stimulus Plan" was signed into law by President Obama. Among other things, this new law provides a subsidy that may reduce by 65% the cost of COBRA and other state group continuation health insurance coverage for workers who lose their jobs.

Click here <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/newsroom/fsCOBRAPremiumReduction.html> for a Fact Sheet produced by the U.S. Department of Labor that includes helpful information about the premium reduction. Click here <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/ebsa/EBSA20090301.htm> for Frequently Asked Questions About COBRA Premium Reduction Under ARRA.

On April 8, 2009, Section 38.2-3541.1 of the Code of Virginia was enacted to allow employees of small employers to continue coverage on the group health plan in the event of involuntary termination. This legislation applies to employees of small employers whose group health insurance coverage does not provide for continuation under COBRA. Click here <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?091+ful+CHAP0796> to view the legislation.

Consumers who have questions or are seeking additional information about COBRA should contact:

United States Department of Labor  
Benefits Advisors Section  
at:  
[www.dol.gov/COBRA](http://www.dol.gov/COBRA)

Toll-free  
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

Still have questions?  
Contact:  
Virginia Bureau of Insurance  
at:  
[www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi)

Toll-free  
1-877-310-6560  
TDD  
804-371-9206

