

House OKs 40th effort to repeal health law (Update)

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House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013. Forget the last-minute deals of years past. Don't worry about a huge pile of undone business. The GOP-led House is spending the last days before Congress' summer vacation on bills that tout the party's favorite political themes but have little chance of becoming law. The "STOP IRS Act" and the "Citizen Empowerment Act" are strikes against government overreach. And on Friday, the House votes for the 40th time to overturn President Barack Obama's health care law. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Republicans have pushed legislation through the House preventing the Internal Revenue Service from implementing any part of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. It's the 40th time the chamber has voted to repeal all or part of the 2010 law.

The bill is sure to be ignored by the Democratic-led Senate. That made Friday's near party-line 232- 185 vote a symbolic one.

The measure married two of the GOP's favorite targets: the health care revamping and the IRS, which in May conceded it had improperly targeted conservative groups seeking tax exempt status for detailed investigations.

Next year, the IRS will begin enforcing the requirement that most individuals have health insurance, collecting fines from people who don't. The IRS also will distribute subsidies to help people buy insurance in new exchanges.

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