

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3906

AN ACT

To improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Small Business
3 Broadband and Emerging Information Technology En-
4 hancement Act of 2022”.

5 **SEC. 2. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECH-**
6 **NOLOGY COORDINATOR.**

7 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
8 amended—

- 9 (1) by redesignating section 49 (15 U.S.C. 631
10 note) as section 50; and
11 (2) by inserting after section 48 (15 U.S.C.
12 657u) the following:

13 **“SEC. 49. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION**
14 **TECHNOLOGY.**

15 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

16 “(1) the term ‘Associate Administrator’ means
17 the Associate Administrator for the Office of Invest-
18 ment and Innovation;

19 “(2) the term ‘broadband’ means—

20 “(A) high-speed wired broadband internet;
21 and

22 “(B) high-speed wireless internet;

23 “(3) the term ‘broadband and emerging infor-
24 mation technology coordinator’ means the employee
25 designated to carry out the broadband and emerging

1 information technology coordination responsibilities
2 of the Administration under subsection (b)(1); and

3 “(4) the term ‘emerging information tech-
4 nology’ includes—

5 “(A) data science technologies such as arti-
6 ficial intelligence and machine learning;

7 “(B) Internet of Things;

8 “(C) distributed ledger technologies such
9 as blockchain;

10 “(D) cloud computing and software as a
11 system technologies;

12 “(E) computer numerical control tech-
13 nologies such as 3D printing; and

14 “(F) robotics and automation.

15 “(b) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—

16 “(1) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—The As-
17 sociate Administrator shall designate a senior em-
18 ployee of the Office of Investment and Innovation to
19 serve as the broadband and emerging information
20 technology coordinator, who—

21 “(A) shall report to the Associate Adminis-
22 trator;

23 “(B) shall work in coordination with—

24 “(i) the chief information officer, the
25 chief technology officer, and the head of

1 the Office of Technology of the Adminis-
2 tration; and

3 “(ii) any other Associate Adminis-
4 trator of the Administration determined
5 appropriate by the Associate Adminis-
6 trator;

7 “(C) has experience developing and imple-
8 menting telecommunications policy in the pri-
9 vate sector or government; and

10 “(D) has demonstrated significant experi-
11 ence in the area of broadband or emerging in-
12 formation technology.

13 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COORDINATOR.—
14 The broadband and emerging information technology
15 coordinator shall—

16 “(A) coordinate programs of the Adminis-
17 tration that assist small business concerns in
18 adopting, making innovations in, and using
19 broadband and other emerging information
20 technologies;

21 “(B) serve as the primary liaison of the
22 Administration to other Federal agencies in-
23 volved in broadband and emerging information
24 technology policy, including the Department of
25 Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the

1 Department of the Treasury, and the Federal
2 Communications Commission;

3 “(C) identify best practices relating to
4 broadband and emerging information tech-
5 nology that may benefit small business con-
6 cerns; and

7 “(D) identify and catalog tools and train-
8 ing available through the resource partners of
9 the Administration that assist small business
10 concerns in adopting, making innovations in,
11 and using broadband and emerging information
12 technologies.

13 “(3) TRAVEL.—Not more than 20 percent of
14 the hours of service by the broadband and emerging
15 information technology coordinator during any fiscal
16 year shall consist of travel outside the United States
17 to perform official duties.

18 “(c) BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION
19 TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.—The broadband and emerging
20 information technology coordinator shall provide to em-
21 ployees of the Administration training that—

22 “(1) familiarizes employees of the Administra-
23 tion with broadband and other emerging information
24 technologies;

25 “(2) includes—

1 “(A) instruction on counseling small busi-
2 ness concerns regarding adopting, making inno-
3 vations in, and using broadband and other
4 emerging information technologies; and

5 “(B) information on programs of the Fed-
6 eral Government that provide assistance to
7 small business concerns relating to broadband
8 and emerging information technologies; and

9 “(3) to maximum extent practicable, uses the
10 tools and training cataloged and identified under
11 subsection (b)(2)(D).

12 “(d) REPORTS.—

13 “(1) BIENNIAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not
14 later than 2 years after the date on which the Asso-
15 ciate Administrator makes the first designation of
16 an employee under subsection (b), and every 2 years
17 thereafter, the broadband and emerging information
18 technology coordinator shall submit to the Com-
19 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
20 the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of
21 the House of Representatives a report regarding the
22 programs and activities of the Administration relat-
23 ing to broadband and other emerging information
24 technologies.

1 “(2) IMPACT OF BROADBAND AVAILABILITY,
2 SPEED, AND PRICE AND EMERGING INFORMATION
3 TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT ON SMALL BUSI-
4 NESSES.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropria-
6 tions, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall con-
7 duct a study evaluating the impact of—

8 “(i) broadband availability, speed, and
9 price on small business concerns; and
10 “(ii) emerging information technology
11 deployment on small business concerns.

12 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
13 after the date of enactment of the Small Busi-
14 ness Broadband and Emerging Information
15 Technology Enhancement Act of 2022, the
16 Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall submit to the
17 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
18 portation and the Committee on Small Business
19 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the
20 Committee on Energy and Commerce and the
21 Committee on Small Business of the House of
22 Representatives a report on the results of the
23 study under subparagraph (A), including—

24 “(i) a survey of broadband speeds
25 available to small business concerns;

1 “(ii) a survey of the cost of broadband
2 speeds available to small business con-
3 cerns;

4 “(iii) a survey of the type of
5 broadband technology used by small busi-
6 ness concerns;

7 “(iv) a survey of the types of emerg-
8 ing information technologies used by small
9 business concerns; and

10 “(v) any policy recommendations that
11 may improve the access of small business
12 concerns to broadband services or emerg-
13 ing information technologies.”.

14 **SEC. 3. ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

15 Section 21(c)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15
16 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

17 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by insert-
18 ing “accessing broadband and other emerging infor-
19 mation technology,” after “technology transfer,”;

20 (2) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

21 (3) in clause (iii), by adding “and” at the end;

22 and

23 (4) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(iv) increasing the competitiveness and
25 productivity of small business concerns by as-

1 sisting entrepreneurs in accessing broadband
2 and other emerging information technology;”.

Passed the Senate September 28, 2022.

Attest:

Secretary.

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3906

AN ACT

To improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.