119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7968

To authorize the Department of Commerce to carry out a study on challenges faced by United States small artificial intelligence businesses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2026

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

---

A BILL

To authorize the Department of Commerce to carry out a study on challenges faced by United States small artificial intelligence businesses, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Small AI Innovators

5 Empowerment Act".

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON CHALLENGES FACED BY SMALL ARTIFI-**

7 **CIAL INTELLIGENCE BUSINESSES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-

9 propriations, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through

1 the Director of the National Institute of Standards and
2 Technology, and in consultation with the Administrator of
3 the Small Business Administration, shall seek to enter
4 into an agreement with an appropriate entity with relevant
5 expertise, as determined by the Director of the National
6 Institute of Standards and Technology, which may include
7 a federally funded research and development center, to
8 conduct a study on challenges faced by United States
9 small artificial intelligence businesses located across the
10 United States.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a)
12 shall include the following:

13 (1) An analysis of Federal and non-Federal re-
14 source funding opportunities for United States small
15 artificial intelligence businesses, including relating to
16 the following:

17 (A) Data on early and seed funding
18 sources.

19 (B) Accessibility of Federal funding oppor-
20 tunities, timeline of receiving such funding, and
21 the impact of physical asset collateral and other
22 loan requirements on United States small artifi-
23 cial intelligence businesses.

24 (C) Availability and use of non-Federal
25 funding opportunities.

1   (2) Usage of research and development tax
2 credits, and the impact of tax credit restrictions or
3 changes on United States small artificial intelligence
4 businesses.

5   (3) Usage of accelerators and incubators in the
6 process of establishing United States small artificial
7 intelligence businesses.

8   (4) An analysis of downstream impacts of Fed-
9 eral policy on United States small artificial intel-
10 ligence businesses, including an assessment of tech-
11 nology stacks, with consideration of the following:

12   (A) Differences in usage of artificial intel-
13   ligence tools between United States small artifi-
14   cial intelligence businesses and other businesses
15   across the infrastructure, model, and applica-
16   tion layers of the artificial intelligence eco-
17   system, and the role of access to computing re-
18   sources, cloud services, and data.

19   (B) Impact of regulatory uncertainty on
20   exit strategies and acquisition opportunities for
21   United States small artificial intelligence busi-
22   nesses.

23   (C) Impact of partnerships with larger
24   firms and competition policy frameworks on op-

1 portunities for growth of United States small

2 artificial intelligence businesses.

3 (5) An analysis of talent recruitment and

4 retainment challenges faced by United States small

5 artificial intelligence businesses.

6 (6) An analysis of any other potential chal-

7 lenges faced by United States small artificial intel-

8 ligence businesses the Secretary determines appro-

9 priate.

10 (7) Proposals and recommendations to address

11 any such challenges.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term "ar-

14 tificial intelligence" has the meaning given such

15 term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intel-

16 ligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

17 (2) UNITED STATES SMALL ARTIFICIAL INTEL-

18 LIGENCE BUSINESS.—The term "United States

19 small artificial intelligence business" means a busi-

20 ness that creates, develops, or customizes artificial

21 intelligence products or services as its primary busi-

22 ness activity and that—

23 (A) is headquartered in the United States;

24 (B) is organized for profit;

1   (C) operates primarily within the United

2   States or makes a significant contribution to

3   the United States economy through payment of

4   taxes or use of American products, materials, or

5   labor;

6   (D) is independently owned and operated,

7   including a business that is backed by private

8   funding, equity financing, or an institutional in-

9   vestor; and

10   (E) employs 250 or fewer people.

11   (3) TECHNOLOGY STACKS.—The term ''tech-

12   nology stacks'' means the collection of technologies,

13   tools, and infrastructure utilized by such businesses.

○