

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 888

To amend the Small Business Act to assist the development of small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12, 1997

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. KERRY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. WELLSTONE, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURNS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. BINGAMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to assist the development of small business concerns owned and controlled by women, 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 “Women’s Business
5 Centers Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. WOMEN'S BUSINESS TRAINING CENTERS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29 of the Small Business
3 Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 29. WOMEN'S BUSINESS TRAINING CENTERS.**

5 “(a) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administration
6 may provide financial assistance to private organizations
7 to conduct 5-year projects for the benefit of small business
8 concerns owned and controlled by women. The projects
9 shall provide—

10 “(1) financial assistance, including training and
11 counseling in how to apply for and secure business
12 credit and investment capital, preparing and pre-
13 senting financial statements, and managing cash
14 flow and other financial operations of a business
15 concern;

16 “(2) management assistance, including training
17 and counseling in how to plan, organize, staff, direct
18 and control each major activity and function of a
19 small business concern; and

20 “(3) marketing assistance, including training
21 and counseling in identifying and segmenting domes-
22 tic and international market opportunities, preparing
23 and executing marketing plans, developing pricing
24 strategies, locating contract opportunities, negotiat-
25 ing contracts, and utilizing varying public relations
26 and advertising techniques.

1 “(b) CONDITIONS.—

2 “(1) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—As a
3 condition of receiving financial assistance authorized
4 by this section, the recipient organization shall agree
5 to obtain, after its application has been approved
6 and notice of award has been issued, cash contribu-
7 tions from non-Federal sources as follows:

8 “(A) in the first, second, and third years,
9 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars;

10 “(B) in the fourth year, 1 non-Federal dol-
11 lar for each Federal dollar; and

12 “(C) in the fifth year, 2 non-Federal dol-
13 lars for each Federal dollar.

14 “(2) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBU-
15 TIONS.—One-half of the non-Federal matching as-
16 sistance under this section may be in the form of
17 inkind contributions which are budget line items
18 only, including office equipment and office space.

19 “(3) FORM OF FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—The
20 Federal financial assistance authorized pursuant to
21 this section may be made by grant, contract, or co-
22 operative agreement and may contain such provision,
23 as necessary, to provide for payments in lump sum
24 or installments, and in advance or by way of reim-
25 bursement. The Administration may disburse up to

1 25 percent of each year's Federal share awarded to
 2 a recipient organization after notice of the award
 3 has been issued and before the non-Federal sector
 4 matching funds are obtained.

5 “(4) FAILURE TO OBTAIN PRIVATE FUNDING.—

6 If any recipient of assistance fails to obtain the re-
 7 quired non-Federal contribution during any
 8 project—

9 “(A) it shall not be eligible thereafter for
 10 advance disbursements pursuant to paragraph
 11 (3) during the remainder of that project, or for
 12 any other project for which it is or may be
 13 funded by the Administration; and

14 “(B) prior to approving assistance to such
 15 organization for any other projects, the Admin-
 16 istration shall specifically determine whether
 17 the Administration believes that the recipient
 18 will be able to obtain the requisite non-Federal
 19 funding and enter a written finding setting
 20 forth the reasons for making such determina-
 21 tion.

22 “(c) SUBMISSION OF 5-YEAR PLAN.— Each appli-
 23 cant organization for assistance under this section initially
 24 shall submit a 5-year plan to the Administration on pro-
 25 posed fundraising and training activities, and a recipient

1 organization may receive financial assistance under this
2 program for a maximum of 5 years per women's business
3 center site.

4 “(d) EVALUATION OF APPLICANTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall
6 evaluate and rank applicants in accordance with pre-
7 determined selection criteria that shall be stated in
8 terms of relative importance. Such criteria and their
9 relative importance shall be made publicly available
10 and stated in each solicitation for applications made
11 by the Administration.

12 “(2) CRITERIA.—The selection criteria referred
13 to in paragraph (1) shall include—

14 “(A) the experience of the applicant in
15 conducting programs or on-going efforts de-
16 signed to impart or upgrade the business skills
17 of women business owners or potential owners;

18 “(B) the present ability of the applicant to
19 commence a project within a minimum amount
20 of time; and

21 “(C) the ability of the applicant to provide
22 training and services to a representative num-
23 ber of women who are both socially and eco-
24 nomically disadvantaged.

1 “(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—There is estab-
 2 lished within the Administration the Office of Women’s
 3 Business Ownership, which shall be responsible for the ad-
 4 ministration of the Administration’s programs for the de-
 5 velopment of women’s business enterprises, as such term
 6 is defined in section 408 of the Women’s Business Owner-
 7 ship Act of 1988. The Office of Women’s Business Owner-
 8 ship shall be administered by an Assistant Administrator,
 9 who shall be appointed by the Administrator.

10 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

11 “(1) the term ‘small business concern owned
 12 and controlled by women’, either start-up or exist-
 13 ing, includes any small business concern—

14 “(A) that is not less than 51 percent
 15 owned by one or more women; and

16 “(B) the management and daily business
 17 operations of which are controlled by one or
 18 more women; and

19 “(2) the term ‘women’s business center site’
 20 means one or more women’s business centers estab-
 21 lished in conjunction with another women’s business
 22 center in another location within a State or region—

23 “(A) that reaches a distinct population
 24 that would otherwise not be served;

1 “(B) whose services are targeted to
2 women;

3 “(C) whose scope, function, and activities
4 are similar to those of the primary women’s
5 business center in conjunction with which it was
6 established.

7 “(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall
9 prepare and transmit a biennial report to the Com-
10 mittee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives and the Committee on Small Business
12 of the Senate of the effectiveness of all projects con-
13 ducted under the authority of this section.

14 “(2) CONTENTS.—The reports required by
15 paragraph (1) shall provide information concern-
16 ing—

17 “(A) the number of individuals receiving
18 assistance;

19 “(B) the number of start-up business con-
20 cerns formed;

21 “(C) the gross receipts of assisted con-
22 cerns;

23 “(D) increases or decreases in profits of
24 assisted concerns; and

1 “(E) the employment increases or de-
2 creases of assisted concerns.

3 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 is authorized to be appropriated \$8,000,000 per year to
5 carry out the projects authorized by this section. Notwith-
6 standing any other provision of law, the Administration
7 may use such expedited acquisition methods as it deems
8 appropriate to achieve the purposes of this section, except
9 that it shall ensure that all eligible sources are provided
10 a reasonable opportunity to submit proposals.”.

11 (b) APPLICABILITY.—Any organization conducting a
12 3-year project under section 29 of the Small Business Act
13 (15 U.S.C. 656) on the day before the effective date of
14 this Act may extend such project to 5 years and receive
15 financial assistance according to section 29(b) of the
16 Small Business Act, as amended by this Act, and subject
17 to procedures established by the Administrator in coordi-
18 nation with the Office of Women’s Business Ownership
19 established by this Act.

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