

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3500

To direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to conduct a pilot program to raise awareness about telecommuting among small business employers and to encourage such employers to offer telecommuting options to employees.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to conduct a pilot program to raise awareness about telecommuting among small business employers and to encourage such employers to offer telecommuting options to employees.

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 Business Tele-
5 commuting Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Telecommuting reduces the volume of peak
2 commuter traffic, thereby reducing traffic congestion
3 and air pollution.

4 (2) The Nation's communities can benefit from
5 telecommuting, which gives workers more time to
6 spend at home with their families.

7 (3) It is in the national interest to raise aware-
8 ness within the small business community of tele-
9 commuting options for employees.

10 (4) The small business community can benefit
11 from offering telecommuting options to employees
12 because such options make it easier for small em-
13 ployers to retain valued employees and employees
14 with irreplaceable institutional memory.

15 **SEC. 3. SMALL BUSINESS TELECOMMUTING PILOT PRO-**
16 **GRAM.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this Act, the
18 Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall
19 conduct, at not more than 5 of the Administration's re-
20 gional offices, a pilot program to raise awareness about
21 telecommuting among small business employers and to en-
22 courage such employers to offer telecommuting options to
23 employees.

24 (b) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the
25 pilot program, the Administrator may only—

1 (1) produce educational materials and conduct
2 presentations designed to raise awareness in the
3 small business community of the benefits and the
4 ease of telecommuting;

5 (2) conduct outreach to small business concerns
6 that are considering offering telecommuting options
7 to employees; and

8 (3) acquire telecommuting technologies and
9 equipment to be used for demonstration purposes.

10 (c) **SELECTION OF OFFICES.**—In selecting at which
11 regional offices to conduct the pilot program, the Adminis-
12 trator shall give priority consideration to offices located
13 in regions in which Federal agencies and private-sector
14 employers have demonstrated a strong, regional commit-
15 ment to telecommuting.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

17 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Ad-
19 ministration shall transmit to the Committee on Small
20 Business of the House of Representatives and the Com-
21 mittee on Small Business of the Senate a report con-
22 taining an evaluation of the pilot program.

23 **SEC. 5. TELECOMMUTING DEFINED.**

24 In this Act, the term “telecommuting” means the use
25 of telecommunications to perform work functions under

1 circumstances which reduce or eliminate the need to com-
2 mute.

3 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-
5 istrator of the Small Business Administration to carry out
6 this Act \$500,000 for fiscal year 2001.

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