

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1442

To preserve the political independence of the National Women’s Business Council.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22 (legislative day, JULY 21), 2003

Ms. LANDRIEU introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

---

## A BILL

To preserve the political independence of the National Women’s Business Council.

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 “National Women’s  
5       Business Council Independence Preservation Act of  
6       2003”.

7       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8       Congress finds the following:

9               (1) The National Women’s Business Council  
10       provides an independent source of advice and policy

1 recommendations regarding women's business devel-  
2 opment and the needs of women entrepreneurs in  
3 the United States to—

4 (A) the President;

5 (B) Congress;

6 (C) the Interagency Committee on Wom-  
7 en's Business Enterprise; and

8 (D) the Administrator of the Small Busi-  
9 ness Administration.

10 (2) The members of the National Women's  
11 Business Council are small business owners, rep-  
12 resentatives of business organizations, and rep-  
13 resentatives of women's business centers.

14 (3) The chair and ranking member of the Com-  
15 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of  
16 the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of  
17 the House of Representatives make recommenda-  
18 tions to the Administrator to fill 8 of the positions  
19 on the National Women's Business Council. Four of  
20 the positions are reserved for small business owners  
21 who are affiliated with the political party of the  
22 President and four of the positions are reserved for  
23 small business owners who are not affiliated with the  
24 political party of the President. This method of ap-  
25 pointment ensures that the National Women's Busi-

1       ness Council will provide Congress with non-par-  
2       tisan, balanced, and independent advice.

3           (4) In order to maintain the independence of  
4       the National Women’s Business Council and to en-  
5       sure that the Council continues to provide Congress  
6       with advice on a non-partisan basis, it is essential  
7       that the Council maintain the bipartisan balance es-  
8       tablished under section 407 of the Women’s Busi-  
9       ness Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7107).

10   **SEC. 3. MAINTAINING THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF**  
11                   **THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUN-**  
12                   **CIL.**

13       Section 407(f) of the Women’s Business Ownership  
14   Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7107(f)) is amended—

15           (1) by striking “A vacancy” and inserting the  
16       following:

17           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy”; and

18           (2) by adding at the end the following:

19           “(2) PARTISAN BALANCE.—When filling vacan-  
20       cies under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, to  
21       the extent practicable, ensure that there are an  
22       equal number of members on the Council from each  
23       of the 2 major political parties.

24           “(3) ACCOUNTABILITY.—If a vacancy is not  
25       filled within the 30-day period required under para-

1 graph (1) or if there exists an imbalance of party-  
2 affiliated members on the Council for a period ex-  
3 ceeding 30 days, the Administrator shall submit a  
4 report, not later than 10 days after the respective  
5 30-day deadline, to the Committee on Small Busi-  
6 ness and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the  
7 Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives, that explains why the respective dead-  
9 line was not met and provides an estimated date on  
10 which any vacancies will be filled.”.

○