

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5163

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to conduct a pilot program to raise awareness about telework among small business employers, and to encourage such employers to offer telework options to employees, 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 “Federal and Small
5 Business Telework Promotion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that—

3 (1) Federal, State, and local governments spend
4 billions of dollars annually on the Nation's transpor-
5 tation needs;

6 (2) congestion on the Nation's roads costs over
7 \$63,000,000,000 annually in lost work time, fuel
8 consumption, and costs of infrastructure and equip-
9 ment repair;

10 (3) on average, on-road vehicles contribute 34
11 percent of nitrogen oxides emissions;

12 (4) it is estimated that staying at home to work
13 requires 3 times less energy consumption than com-
14 muting to work;

15 (5) in 2000, it was reported that if an identified
16 10 to 20 percent of commuters switched to tele-
17 working, 1,800,000 tons of regulated pollutants
18 would be eliminated, 3,500,000,000 gallons of gas
19 would be saved, 3,100,000,000 hours of personal
20 time would be freed up, and maintenance and infra-
21 structure costs would decrease by \$500,000,000 an-
22 nually because of reduced congestion and reduced
23 vehicle miles traveled;

24 (6) the average American daily commute is 49
25 minutes for a 24-mile round trip (a total of 100
26 hours per year);

1 (7) the increase in work from 1969 to 1996,
2 the increase in hours mothers spend in paid work,
3 combined with a shift toward single-parent families
4 resulted in families on average experiencing a de-
5 crease of 22 hours a week (14 percent) in parental
6 time available outside of paid work they could spend
7 with their children;

8 (8) today 60 percent of the workforce is in-
9 volved in information work (an increase of 43 per-
10 cent since 1990) allowing and encouraging decen-
11 tralization of paid work to occur;

12 (9) telework reduces the volume of peak com-
13 muter traffic, thereby reducing traffic congestion
14 and air pollution;

15 (10) the Nation's communities can benefit from
16 telework, which gives workers more time to spend at
17 home with their families;

18 (11) it is in the national interest to raise aware-
19 ness within the small business community of
20 telework options for employees;

21 (12) the small business community can benefit
22 from offering telework options to employees because
23 such options make it easier for small employers to
24 retain valued employees and employees with irre-
25 placeable institutional memory;

1 (13) companies with telework programs have
2 found that telework can boost employee productivity
3 5 percent to 20 percent, thereby saving businesses
4 valuable resources and time;

5 (14) individuals with disabilities, including dis-
6 abled American veterans, who own or are employed
7 by small businesses could benefit from telework to
8 their workplaces;

9 (15) telework has the potential to provide more
10 employment opportunities in rural communities;

11 (16) estimates indicate that about 40,000,000
12 Americans are currently teleworking;

13 (17) teleworking is seen as a valuable tool in
14 worker productivity and is of interest to the Federal
15 workforce; and

16 (18) the Government Accountability Office
17 notes that 140,694 employees teleworked, rep-
18 resenting a 37 percent increase from 2003, a growth
19 that demonstrates a steady escalation over time as
20 the overall number of teleworkers in the Federal
21 Government has grown since 2001 with 72,844 tele-
22 workers, in 2002 with 90,010 teleworkers, and in
23 2003 with 102,921 teleworkers.

1 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION OF EMPLOYEE VEHICLE FUEL CON-**
2 **SUMPTION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

3 Section 543 of the National Energy Conservation
4 Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253) is amended by adding at the
5 end the following:

6 “(f) REDUCTION OF EMPLOYEE VEHICLE FUEL
7 CONSUMPTION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall take
9 such actions as are necessary to reduce the level of
10 fuel consumed by vehicles of employees of the agency
11 (other than fuel used for military purposes), in con-
12 nection with the employment of the employees, by
13 (to the maximum extent practicable) 10 percent or
14 more during the 1-year period beginning on the date
15 of enactment of this subsection.

16 “(2) METHODS.—An agency may use such
17 methods as the agency determines are appropriate to
18 achieve the target established by paragraph (1), in-
19 cluding—

20 “(A) telework;

21 “(B) carpooling;

22 “(C) bicycling and walking to work;

23 “(D) fuel-efficient trip planning;

24 “(E) public transportation use; and

25 “(F) limiting travel days for vehicle travel
26 outside the office.”.

1 **SEC. 4. SMALL BUSINESS TELEWORK PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Small
3 Business Administration shall carry out, in not more than
4 5 of the Small Business Administration’s regions, a pilot
5 program under this section to raise awareness about
6 telework among small business employers and to encour-
7 age such employers to offer telework options to employees.

8 (b) SPECIAL OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-
9 ABILITIES.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Ad-
10 ministrator shall make special efforts to conduct outreach
11 to—

12 (1) businesses owned by or employing individ-
13 uals with disabilities, and disabled American vet-
14 erans in particular;

15 (2) Federal, State, and local agencies having
16 knowledge and expertise in assisting individuals with
17 disabilities or disabled American veterans; and

18 (3) any group or organization, the primary pur-
19 pose of which is to aid individuals with disabilities
20 or disabled American veterans.

21 (c) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the
22 pilot program, the Administrator may only—

23 (1) produce educational materials and conduct
24 presentations designed to raise awareness in the
25 small business community of the benefits and the
26 ease of telework;

1 (2) conduct outreach—

2 (A) to small business concerns that are
3 considering offering telework options; and

4 (B) as provided in subsection (b); and

5 (3) acquire telework technologies and equip-
6 ment to be used for demonstration purposes.

7 (d) SELECTION OF REGIONS.—In determining which
8 regions will participate in the pilot program, the Adminis-
9 trator shall give priority consideration to regions in which
10 Federal agencies and private-sector employers have dem-
11 onstrated a strong regional commitment to telework.

12 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
13 after the first date on which funds are appropriated to
14 carry out this section, the Administrator shall transmit to
15 the Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Small Business and
17 Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report containing the
18 results of an evaluation of the pilot program and any rec-
19 ommendations as to whether the pilot program, with or
20 without modification, should be extended to include the
21 participation of all Small Business Administration regions.

22 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

23 (1) the term “disability” has the same meaning
24 as in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities
25 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102); and

1 (2) the term “telework” means the performance
2 of any portion of work functions by an employee out-
3 side the normal place of business under cir-
4 cumstances which reduce or eliminate the need to
5 commute.

6 (g) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out the
7 pilot program under this section shall terminate 2 years
8 after the first date on which funds are appropriated to
9 carry out this section.

10 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated to the Small Business Ad-
12 ministration \$5,000,000 to carry out this section.

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