

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1807

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2009

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship

AN ACT

To provide distance learning to potential and existing
entrepreneurs, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Educating Entre-
3 preneurs through Today’s Technology Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. EDUCATING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH TECH-**
5 **NOLOGY.**

6 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
7 amended by redesignating section 44 as section 45 and
8 by inserting the following new section after section 43:

9 **“SEC. 44. EDUCATING AND NETWORKING ENTREPRENEURS**
10 **THROUGH TECHNOLOGY.**

11 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
12 provide distance learning and opportunities for the ex-
13 change of peer-to-peer technical assistance through online
14 networking to potential and existing entrepreneurs
15 through the use of technology.

16 “(b) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
17 ‘qualified third-party vendor’ means an entity with experi-
18 ence in distance learning content or communications tech-
19 nology, or both, with the ability to utilize on-line, satellite,
20 video-on-demand, and connected community-based organi-
21 zations to distribute and conduct distance learning and es-
22 tablish an online network for use by potential and existing
23 entrepreneurs to facilitate the exchange of peer-to-peer
24 technical assistance related to entrepreneurship, credit
25 management, financial literacy, and Federal small busi-
26 ness development programs.

1 “(c) **AUTHORITY.**—The Administrator shall contract
2 with qualified third-party vendors for entrepreneurial
3 training content, the development of communications tech-
4 nology that can distribute content under this section
5 throughout the United States, and the establishment of
6 a nationwide, online network for the exchange of peer-to-
7 peer technical assistance. The Administrator shall con-
8 tract with at least two qualified third-party vendors to de-
9 velop content.

10 “(d) **CONTENT.**—The Administrator shall ensure
11 that the content referred to in subsection (c) is timely and
12 relevant to entrepreneurial development and can be suc-
13 cessfully communicated remotely to an audience through
14 the use of technology. The Administrator shall, to the
15 maximum extent practicable, promote content that makes
16 use of technologies that allow for remote interaction by
17 the content provider with an audience. The Administrator
18 shall ensure that the content is catalogued and accessible
19 to small businesses on-line or through other remote tech-
20 nologies.

21 “(e) **COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.**—The Admin-
22 istrator shall ensure that the communications technology
23 referred to in subsection (c) is able to distribute content
24 throughout all 50 States and the territories of the United
25 States to small business concerns, home-based businesses,

1 Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business
2 Centers, Veterans Business Centers, SCORE chapters,
3 and the Small Business Administration and network en-
4 trepreneurs throughout all 50 States and the territories
5 of the United States to allow for peer-to-peer learning
6 through the creation of a location online that allows entre-
7 preneurs and small business owners the opportunity to ex-
8 change technical assistance through the sharing of infor-
9 mation. To the extent possible, the qualified third-party
10 vendor should deliver the content and facilitate the net-
11 working using broadband technology.

12 “(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator
13 shall submit a report to Congress 6 months after the date
14 of the enactment of this section containing an analysis of
15 the Small Business Administration’s progress in imple-
16 menting this section. The Administrator shall submit a re-
17 port to Congress 1 year after the date of the enactment
18 of this section and annually thereafter containing the
19 number of presentations made under this section, the
20 number of small businesses served under this section, the
21 extent to which this section resulted in the establishment
22 of new businesses, and feedback on the usefulness of this
23 medium in presenting entrepreneurial education and facili-
24 tating the exchange of peer-to-peer technical assistance
25 throughout the United States.

1 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 28, 2009.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.