

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3085

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve the business and industry direct and guaranteed loan program of the Department of Agriculture.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2010

Mr. BAUCUS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve the business and industry direct and guaranteed loan program of the Department of Agriculture.

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 “Rural Access to Credit
5 Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DIRECT AND GUARAN-**
 2 **TEED LOANS.**

3 (a) TANGIBLE EQUITY REQUIREMENTS.—Section
 4 310B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
 5 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(d)) is amended by striking para-
 6 graph (6) and inserting the following:

7 “(6) EQUITY.—In the case of direct or guaran-
 8 teed loans under this section, the Secretary shall use
 9 commercial lending standards in determining any eq-
 10 uity requirement.”.

11 (b) GENERAL TERMS.—Section 310B(g) of the Con-
 12 solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
 13 1932(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(10) GENERAL TERMS.—

15 “(A) MAXIMUM LOAN GUARANTEE
 16 AMOUNT.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
 18 any other provision of this Act, during the
 19 period beginning on the date of enactment
 20 of this paragraph and ending on December
 21 31, 2011, the Secretary shall guarantee up
 22 to 90 percent of a business and industry
 23 loan in an amount of up to \$10,000,000
 24 that is a high priority project, as deter-
 25 mined based on published criteria of the

1 Secretary that includes rural economic fac-
 2 tors.

3 “(ii) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—
 4 Notwithstanding any other provision of
 5 this Act, beginning on January 1, 2012,
 6 the Secretary may guarantee up to 80 or
 7 90 percent (as determined by the Sec-
 8 retary) of a business and industry loan in
 9 an amount of up to \$10,000,000 that is a
 10 high priority project, as determined based
 11 on criteria described in clause (i).

12 “(B) LINE-OF-CREDIT LOANS.—In guaran-
 13 teeing business and industry loans, the Sec-
 14 retary shall guarantee line-of-credit loans in ac-
 15 cordance with section 316(c).

16 “(C) REFINANCING.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A business and in-
 18 dustry loan may be used by a small busi-
 19 ness to refinance debt in existence as of
 20 the day before the date on which the loan
 21 was made or guaranteed, if—

22 “(I) the project for which the
 23 debt was incurred is viable and will
 24 create or save jobs, as determined by
 25 the Secretary; and

1 “(II) as of the date of application
2 for refinancing—

3 “(aa) the underlying loan
4 has been current for at least 1
5 year; and

6 “(bb) the lender is providing
7 better rates and longer terms
8 than under the original loan.

9 “(ii) SUBORDINATED OWNER DEBT.—
10 Subordinated owner debt shall not be eligi-
11 ble for inclusion in debt described in clause
12 (i).

13 “(D) AUDIT STANDARDS.—Notwith-
14 standing any other provision of law, the Sec-
15 retary—

16 “(i) shall not require audited financial
17 statements consistent with generally ac-
18 cepted accounting principles for business
19 and industry loans of less than
20 \$1,000,000; and

21 “(ii) may waive any requirement for
22 audited financial statements consistent
23 with generally accepted accounting prin-
24 ciples for business and industry loans of at
25 least \$1,000,000.

1 “(E) CALCULATION OF DELINQUENCY
2 RATES.—To allow accurate comparison of delin-
3 quency rates among Federal agencies, in calcu-
4 lating the delinquency rate for business and in-
5 dustry loans, the Secretary shall use the cal-
6 culation method used by the Administrator of
7 the Small Business Administration.”.

8 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO THE RURAL
9 MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—It is the
10 sense of Congress that in allocating discretionary funds
11 of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Agri-
12 culture should give priority to the rural microentrepreneur
13 assistance program established under section 379E of the
14 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
15 2008s).

16 (d) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—The budgetary effects of
17 this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory
18 Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by ref-
19 erence to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects
20 of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for print-
21 ing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the
22 Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement
23 has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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