

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3506

To improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 2010

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. KERRY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, 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 “Small Business
5 Broadband and Emerging Information Technology En-
6 hancement Act of 2010”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that, according to a report by the Fed-
9 eral Communications Commission entitled “Connecting

1 America: The National Broadband Plan”, dated March
2 2010, the Commission recommends that—

3 (1) “To fully implement next-generation tech-
4 nology within its operations, the SBA should also
5 appoint a broadband and emerging IT coordinator.
6 This individual would ensure that SBA programs
7 maintain the requisite broadband expertise, tools
8 and training courses to serve small businesses.”;

9 (2) “Congress should consider ways to leverage
10 existing assistance provided through” entrepre-
11 neurial development programs, “to focus training on
12 advanced IT and broadband applications”;

13 (3) “Congress could also consider ways to sup-
14 port technology training among women entre-
15 preneurs through” women’s business centers;

16 (4) “The training programs should include an
17 entry-level ‘Broadband 101’ course to give small
18 businesses an introduction to how to capitalize on
19 broadband connectivity, as well as more advanced
20 applications for IT staff.”;

21 (5) small and medium enterprise “IT training
22 should include resources for non-IT staff, such as
23 how to use e-commerce tools for sales, streamline fi-
24 nance with online records or leverage knowledge
25 management across an organization.”; and

1 (6) “To facilitate the development of broadband
 2 networks, Congress should consider allowing all
 3 agencies to set the fees for access to rights-of-way
 4 for broadband services on the basis of a direct cost
 5 recovery approach, especially in markets currently
 6 underserved or unserved by any broadband service
 7 provider. The Executive Branch should also develop
 8 one or more master contracts for all federal property
 9 and buildings covering the placement of wireless
 10 towers.”.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act—

13 (1) the terms “Administration” and “Adminis-
 14 trator” mean the Small Business Administration
 15 and the Administrator thereof, respectively; and

16 (2) the term “small business concern” has the
 17 meaning given that term under section 3 of the
 18 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

19 **SEC. 4. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECH-**
 20 **NOLOGY COORDINATOR.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Small Business Act (15
 22 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

23 (1) by redesignating section 44 as section 45;
 24 and

25 (2) by inserting after section 43 the following:

1 **“SEC. 44. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION**
2 **TECHNOLOGY.**

3 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term
4 ‘broadband and emerging information technology coordi-
5 nator’ means the individual assigned the broadband and
6 emerging information technology coordination responsibil-
7 ities of the Administration under subsection (b)(1).

8 “(b) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—

9 “(1) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—The Ad-
10 ministrator shall assign responsibility for coordi-
11 nating the programs and activities of the Adminis-
12 tration relating to broadband and emerging informa-
13 tion technology to an individual who—

14 “(A) shall report directly to the Adminis-
15 trator;

16 “(B) shall work in coordination with—

17 “(i) the chief information officer, the
18 chief technology officer, and the head of
19 the Office of Technology of the Adminis-
20 tration; and

21 “(ii) any Associate Administrator of
22 the Administration determined appropriate
23 by the Administrator;

24 “(C) shall not be an employee of the Office
25 of Technology of the Administration;

1 “(D) has experience developing and imple-
2 menting telecommunications policy in the pri-
3 vate sector or government; and

4 “(E) has demonstrated significant experi-
5 ence in the area of broadband or emerging in-
6 formation technology.

7 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COORDINATOR.—
8 The broadband and emerging information technology
9 coordinator shall—

10 “(A) coordinate programs of the Adminis-
11 tration that assist small business concerns in
12 adopting, making innovations in, and using
13 broadband and other emerging information
14 technologies;

15 “(B) serve as the primary liaison of the
16 Administration to other Federal agencies in-
17 volved in broadband and emerging information
18 technology policy, including the Department of
19 Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, and
20 the Federal Communications Commission; and

21 “(C) identify best practices relating to
22 broadband and emerging information tech-
23 nology that may benefit small business con-
24 cerns.

1 “(3) TRAVEL.—Not more than 20 percent of
2 the hours of service by the broadband and emerging
3 information technology coordinator during any fiscal
4 year shall consist of travel outside the United States
5 to perform official duties.

6 “(c) BROADBAND AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY
7 TRAINING.—

8 “(1) TRAINING.—The Administrator shall pro-
9 vide to employees of the Administration training
10 that—

11 “(A) familiarizes employees of the Admin-
12 istration with broadband and other emerging
13 information technologies; and

14 “(B) includes—

15 “(i) instruction counseling small busi-
16 ness concerns regarding adopting, making
17 innovations in, and using broadband and
18 other emerging information technologies;
19 and

20 “(ii) information on programs of the
21 Federal Government that provide assist-
22 ance to small business concerns relating to
23 broadband and emerging information tech-
24 nologies.

1 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

4 “(d) REPORTS.—

5 “(1) BIENNIAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not
6 later than 2 years after the date on which the Ad-
7 ministrator makes the first assignment of respon-
8 sibilities under subsection (b), and every 2 years
9 thereafter, the broadband and emerging information
10 technology coordinator shall submit to the Com-
11 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
12 the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of
13 the House of Representatives a report regarding the
14 programs and activities of the Administration relat-
15 ing to broadband and other emerging information
16 technologies.

17 “(2) REPORT ON FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—Not
18 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
19 section, the broadband and emerging information
20 technology coordinator, in consultation with the Sec-
21 retary of Agriculture, the Assistant Secretary of
22 Commerce for Communications and Information,
23 and the Chairman of the Federal Communications
24 Commission, shall submit to the Committee on
25 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate

1 and the Committee on Small Business of the House
 2 of Representatives a report on the programs of the
 3 Federal Government that provide assistance to small
 4 business concerns relating to broadband and emerg-
 5 ing information technologies, which shall include rec-
 6 ommendations, if any, for improving coordination
 7 among the programs.”.

8 **SEC. 5. ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

9 (a) ASSISTANCE BY SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOP-
 10 MENT CENTERS.—Section 21(c)(3)(B) of the Small Busi-
 11 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

12 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by insert-
 13 ing “accessing broadband and other emerging infor-
 14 mation technology,” after “technology transfer,”;

15 (2) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

16 (3) in clause (iii), by adding “and” at the end;

17 and

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

19 “(iv) increasing the competitiveness and
 20 productivity of small business concerns by as-
 21 sisting entrepreneurs in accessing broadband
 22 and other emerging information technology;”.

23 (b) ASSISTANCE BY WOMEN’S BUSINESS CEN-
 24 TERS.—Section 29(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15
 25 U.S.C. 656(b)(3)) is amended by inserting “using

1 broadband and other emerging information technologies,”
 2 after “negotiating contracts,”.

3 **SEC. 6. CAPITAL ACCESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Small Busi-
 5 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended in the matter pre-
 6 ceding paragraph (1) by inserting “(including to purchase
 7 equipment for broadband or other emerging information
 8 technologies)” after “equipment”.

9 (b) MICROLOANS.—Section 7(m)(1)(A)(iii)(I) of the
 10 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(1)(A)(iii)(I)) is
 11 amended by inserting “(including to purchase equipment
 12 for broadband or other emerging information tech-
 13 nologies)” after “or equipment”.

14 (c) 504 LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business
 15 Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697) is amended in
 16 the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “and the
 17 purchase of equipment for broadband or other emerging
 18 information technologies” after “acquisition of land”.

19 **SEC. 7. RURAL SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY PILOT PRO-**
 20 **GRAM.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

22 (1) the term “qualified small business concern”
 23 means a small business concern located in a rural
 24 area; and

1 (2) the term “rural area” has the meaning
2 given that term in section 1393(a)(2) of the Internal
3 Revenue Code of 1986.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordina-
6 tion with the Administrator of General Services, shall sub-
7 mit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
8 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Busi-
9 ness of the House of Representatives a report describing—

10 (1) the number of Government-owned com-
11 puters in the possession of the Administration, in-
12 cluding the number of working computers, non-
13 working computers, desktop computers, and laptop
14 computers;

15 (2) the number of Government-owned com-
16 puters disposed of by the Administration during the
17 5-year period ending on the date of enactment of
18 this Act, including the number of such computers
19 that were working computers, nonworking com-
20 puters, desktop computers, or laptop computers;

21 (3) the procedures of the Administration for the
22 disposal of Government-owned computers; and

23 (4) the plans of the Administrator for carrying
24 out the pilot program under subsection (c).

25 (c) PILOT PROGRAM.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
3 trator shall establish a pilot program to provide not
4 more than 1,000 excess Government-owned com-
5 puters each year to qualified small business concerns
6 at no cost or a reduced cost.

7 (2) PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.—The pilot pro-
8 gram established under paragraph (1) shall be de-
9 signed to—

10 (A) encourage entrepreneurship in rural
11 areas;

12 (B) assist small business concerns in ac-
13 cessing technology; and

14 (C) accelerate the growth of qualified small
15 business concerns.

16 (3) TERMINATION.—The authority to conduct
17 the pilot program under this subsection shall termi-
18 nate 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

19 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
21 such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

22 **SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in con-
25 sultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall

1 submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
2 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Busi-
3 ness of the House of Representatives a report on ways
4 to assist with the development of broadband and wireless
5 technology that would benefit small business concerns.

6 (b) CONTENT OF THE REPORT.—The report sub-
7 mitted under subsection (a) shall—

8 (1) outline the participation by the Administra-
9 tion in the National Antenna Program, including the
10 number of wireless towers deployed on facilities
11 which contain an office of the Administration;

12 (2) information on agreements between the Ad-
13 ministration and the General Services Administra-
14 tion related to broadband and wireless deployment in
15 offices of the Administration; and

16 (3) recommendations, if any, on opportunities
17 for the Administration to improve broadband or
18 wireless technology in offices of the Administration
19 that are in areas currently underserved or unserved
20 by broadband service providers.

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