

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3194

To require the establishment of a small business common application and web portal for purposes of Federal small business assistance programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 16, 2012

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

A BILL

To require the establishment of a small business common application and web portal for purposes of Federal small business assistance programs, 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 Com-
5 mon Application Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
9 ministrator of the Small Business Administration;

1 (2) the term “Assistant Secretary” means the
2 Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic De-
3 velopment;

4 (3) the term “Executive agency” has the same
5 meaning as in section 105 of title 5, United States
6 Code;

7 (4) the term “Executive Committee” means the
8 Executive Committee on a Small Business Common
9 Application established under section 4; and

10 (5) the term “small business concern” has the
11 meaning given that term in section 3 of the Small
12 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL BUSINESS COMMON**
14 **APPLICATION AND WEB PORTAL.**

15 (a) COMMON APPLICATION AND WEB PORTAL.—
16 Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Adminis-
17 trator, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall
18 establish a small business common application and web
19 portal.

20 (b) COMMON APPLICATION AND WEB PORTAL.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The web portal established
22 under subsection (a) shall allow a small business
23 concern to submit a single common application to
24 apply for Federal assistance provided by any Execu-
25 tive agency, including—

- 1 (A) a loan;
- 2 (B) a loan guarantee;
- 3 (C) a grant;
- 4 (D) technical assistance;
- 5 (E) counseling services; and
- 6 (F) other forms of assistance provided by
- 7 an Executive agency.

8 (2) GOALS.—The small business common appli-
9 cation and web portal established under subsection
10 (a) shall—

11 (A) maximize the ability of small business
12 concerns to use the common application and
13 web portal to interact with Executive agencies;

14 (B) maintain high standards for data pri-
15 vacy and security;

16 (C) increase the degree and ease of infor-
17 mation sharing and coordination among pro-
18 grams serving small business concerns that are
19 carried out by Executive agencies, including
20 State and local offices of Executive agencies;
21 and

22 (D) minimize redundancy in the adminis-
23 tration of programs that use the common appli-
24 cation and web portal.

1 (c) USE OF COMMON APPLICATION AND WEB POR-
 2 TAL.—Each Executive agency that provides Federal as-
 3 sistance to small business concerns shall amend the rules
 4 of the Executive agency to provide for use of the common
 5 application and web portal to apply for such Federal as-
 6 sistance.

7 (d) RULES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
 8 enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation
 9 with the Executive Committee, shall issue final rules es-
 10 tablishing the small business common application and web
 11 portal under this section.

12 (e) MAINTENANCE AND AMENDMENT.—The Admin-
 13 istrator shall maintain the small business common applica-
 14 tion and web portal established under subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON A SMALL BUSINESS**
 16 **COMMON APPLICATION.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
 18 Economic Development Administration an Executive Com-
 19 mittee on a Small Business Common Application, which
 20 shall—

- 21 (1) make recommendations regarding the estab-
 22 lishment of the small business common application
 23 and web portal under section 3;
- 24 (2) monitor the implementation of the small
 25 business common application and web portal; and

1 (3) make periodic recommendations to the Ad-
2 ministrator for the improvement of the small busi-
3 ness common application and web portal.

4 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Execu-
6 tive Committee shall consist of—

7 (A) the Assistant Secretary; and

8 (B) 1 senior officer or employee having
9 policy and technical expertise appointed by each
10 of—

11 (i) the Administrator of the General
12 Services Administration;

13 (ii) the Administrator of the Small
14 Business Administration;

15 (iii) the Director of the National In-
16 stitutes of Health;

17 (iv) the Director of the National
18 Science Foundation;

19 (v) the President of the Export-Im-
20 port Bank;

21 (vi) the Secretary of Agriculture;

22 (vii) the Secretary of Defense;

23 (viii) the Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services;

25 (ix) the Secretary of Labor;

- 1 (x) the Secretary of State;
2 (xi) the Secretary of the Treasury;
3 and
4 (xii) the Secretary of Veterans Af-
5 fairs.

6 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Assistant Secretary
7 shall serve as chairperson of the Executive Com-
8 mittee.

9 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members of
10 the Executive Committee shall be appointed for a
11 term of 3 years.

12 (4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Executive
13 Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the
14 original appointment, not later than 30 days after
15 the date on which the vacancy occurs.

16 (c) MEETINGS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Committee
18 shall meet at the call of the chairperson of the Exec-
19 utive Committee.

20 (2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
21 the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

22 (3) FIRST MEETING.—The first meeting of the
23 Executive Committee shall take place not later than
24 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (4) PUBLIC MEETING.—The Executive Com-
2 mittee shall hold at least one public meeting before
3 the date described in subsection (d)(1) to receive
4 comments from small business concerns and other
5 interested parties.

6 (d) DUTIES.—

7 (1) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180
8 days after the date of enactment of this Act, upon
9 a vote of the majority of members of the Executive
10 Committee then serving, the Executive Committee
11 shall submit to the Administrator recommendations
12 relating to the establishment of the small business
13 common application and web portal described in sec-
14 tion 3.

15 (2) TRANSMISSION TO EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.—
16 The Executive Committee shall transmit to each Ex-
17 ecutive agency a complete copy of the recommenda-
18 tions submitted under paragraph (1).

19 (3) RECOMMENDATIONS BY EXECUTIVE AGEN-
20 CIES.—Not later than 30 days after the date on
21 which the Executive Committee transmits rec-
22 ommendations to the Executive agency under para-
23 graph (2), each Executive agency that provides Fed-
24 eral assistance to small business concerns shall sub-
25 mit to Congress recommendations, if any, for legisla-

1 tive changes necessary for the Executive agency to
2 carry out this Act.

3 (e) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

4 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—The mem-
5 bers of the Executive Committee shall serve without
6 compensation in addition to that received for their
7 services as officers or employees of the United
8 States.

9 (2) DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES.—The Adminis-
10 trator may detail to the Executive Committee any
11 employee of the Economic Development Administra-
12 tion, and such detail shall be without interruption or
13 loss of civil service status or privilege.

14 (f) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section
15 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
16 App.) shall not apply with respect to the Executive Com-
17 mittee.

18 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
20 ministrator such sums as may be necessary to carry out
21 this Act.

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