

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 25

To improve the coordination of export promotion programs and to facilitate export opportunities for small businesses, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To improve the coordination of export promotion programs and to facilitate export opportunities for small businesses, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Small Business Export Growth Act of 2015”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVED COORDINATION OF EXPORT PROMOTION
PROGRAMS

- Sec. 101. Consolidation of duplicative export promotion activities; information about trade missions and trade fairs.
- Sec. 102. Clarification of roles of members of Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee.
- Sec. 103. State and Federal Export Promotion Coordination Working Group.
- Sec. 104. Reports to Congress with respect to activities of Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee.
- Sec. 105. Report on improvements to Export.gov as a single window for export information.

TITLE II—FACILITATION OF EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- Sec. 201. Promotion of exporting.
- Sec. 202. Export control education.
- Sec. 203. Small Business Interagency Task Force on Export Financing.
- Sec. 204. Availability of State resource guides on Export.gov.

1 **TITLE I—IMPROVED COORDINA-** 2 **TION OF EXPORT PROMOTION** 3 **PROGRAMS**

4 **SEC. 101. CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE EXPORT PRO-** 5 **MOTION ACTIVITIES; INFORMATION ABOUT** 6 **TRADE MISSIONS AND TRADE FAIRS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2312(b) of the Export
8 Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727(b)) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, including
11 by identifying opportunities to consolidate or co-lo-
12 cate offices of agencies involved in such activities”
13 after “export financing activities”;

14 (2) in paragraph (5)—

15 (A) by inserting “, including the use and
16 coordination of electronic databases,” after “the

1 appropriate levels and allocation of resources”;
 2 and

3 (B) by striking “; and” and inserting a
 4 semicolon;

5 (3) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-
 6 graph (7); and

7 (4) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
 8 lowing:

9 “(6) to the maximum extent practicable, pro-
 10 vide a detailed listing of current and future Federal
 11 and State-led trade missions, trade fairs, and related
 12 activities to ensure better delivery of services to
 13 United States businesses; and”.

14 (b) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary
 15 of Commerce shall make available the information on Fed-
 16 eral and State-led trade missions, trade fairs, and related
 17 activities described in paragraph (6) of section 2312(b)
 18 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988, as added by sub-
 19 section (a)(4), on the Internet website Export.gov or a
 20 successor website.

21 **SEC. 102. CLARIFICATION OF ROLES OF MEMBERS OF**
 22 **TRADE PROMOTION COORDINATING COM-**
 23 **MITTEE.**

24 Section 2312(c) of the Export Enhancement Act of
 25 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727(c)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5),
2 and (6) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (8), respec-
3 tively;

4 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(3) with respect to export promotion and ex-
7 port financing activities of each department or agen-
8 cy represented on the TPCC—

9 “(A) clearly identify and explain the role of
10 the department or agency; and

11 “(B) describe the goals and objectives of
12 the department or agency and explain the ra-
13 tionale for measuring and reporting on those
14 goals and objectives;”;

15 (3) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by para-
16 graph (1)—

17 (A) by inserting “and Congress” after “the
18 President”; and

19 (B) by striking “paragraph (3)” and in-
20 serting “paragraph (4)”;

21 (4) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by para-
22 graph (1), by striking “; and” and inserting a semi-
23 colon;

24 (5) by inserting after paragraph (6), as redesign-
25 ated by paragraph (1), the following:

1 “(7) include any recommendations of the Comp-
 2 troller General of the United States that relate to
 3 coordination of the TPCC and departments and
 4 agencies that are represented on the TPCC; and”;
 5 and

6 (6) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by para-
 7 graph (1), by striking “United States National
 8 Tourism Organization” and inserting “United States
 9 Travel Association”.

10 **SEC. 103. STATE AND FEDERAL EXPORT PROMOTION CO-**
 11 **ORDINATION WORKING GROUP.**

12 Subtitle C of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988
 13 (15 U.S.C. 4721 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
 14 section 2313 the following:

15 **“SEC. 2313A. STATE AND FEDERAL EXPORT PROMOTION**
 16 **COORDINATION WORKING GROUP.**

17 “(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
 18 United States to promote exports as an opportunity for
 19 small businesses. In exercising their powers and functions
 20 in order to advance that policy, all Federal departments
 21 and agencies shall work constructively with State and local
 22 agencies engaged in export promotion and export financ-
 23 ing activities.

24 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall estab-
 25 lish a State and Federal Export Promotion Coordination

1 Working Group (in this section referred to as the ‘Work-
2 ing Group’) as a subcommittee of the Trade Promotion
3 Coordination Committee (in this section referred to as the
4 ‘TPCC’).

5 “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Working
6 Group are—

7 “(1) to identify issues related to the coordina-
8 tion of Federal resources relating to export pro-
9 motion and export financing with such resources
10 provided by State and local governments;

11 “(2) to identify ways to improve coordination
12 with respect to export promotion and export financ-
13 ing activities through the strategic plan developed
14 under section 2312(c);

15 “(3) to develop a strategy for improving coordi-
16 nation of Federal and State resources relating to ex-
17 port promotion and export financing, including
18 methods to eliminate duplication of effort and over-
19 lapping functions; and

20 “(4) to develop a strategic plan for considering
21 and implementing the Working Group’s suggestions
22 as part of the strategic plan developed under section
23 2312(c).

1 “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Commerce
2 shall select the members of the Working Group, who shall
3 include—

4 “(1) representatives from State trade agencies
5 representing regionally diverse areas; and

6 “(2) representatives of the departments and
7 agencies that are represented on the TPCC, who are
8 designated by the heads of their respective depart-
9 ments or agencies to advise the head on ways of pro-
10 moting the exportation of United States goods and
11 services.”.

12 **SEC. 104. REPORTS TO CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO AC-**
13 **TIVITIES OF TRADE PROMOTION COORDI-**
14 **NATING COMMITTEE.**

15 Section 2312(f) of the Export Enhancement Act of
16 1988 (19 U.S.C. 4727(f)) is amended to read as follows:

17 “(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

18 “(1) REPORTS BY TPCC.—The chairperson of
19 the TPCC shall prepare and submit to the appro-
20 priate congressional committees, not later than
21 March 30 of each year, a report that—

22 “(A) describes the strategic plan developed
23 by the TPCC pursuant to subsection (c), the
24 implementation of the plan, and any revisions
25 to the plan; and

“(B) describes the implementation of sections 303 and 304 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5823 and 5824) concerning funding for export promotion activities and the interagency working groups on energy of the TPCC.

“(2) REPORTS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the Department of Commerce shall prepare and submit to the appropriate congressional committees, not later than March 30 of each year, a report on the extent to which—

“(i) the TPCC is successfully carrying out the duties described in subsection (b); and

“(ii) the strategic plan described in subsection (c) is being implemented successfully.

“(B) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consult with the inspector general of each other

1 Federal department or agency that is a member
2 of the TPCC.

3 “(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
4 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘ap-
5 propriate congressional committees’ means—

6 “(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
7 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
8 portation, the Committee on Finance, the Com-
9 mittee on Foreign Relations, and the Com-
10 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
11 of the Senate; and

12 “(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
13 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Com-
14 mittee on Financial Services, the Committee on
15 Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Small Busi-
16 ness, and the Committee on Ways and Means
17 of the House of Representatives.”.

18 **SEC. 105. REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS TO EXPORT.GOV AS**
19 **A SINGLE WINDOW FOR EXPORT INFORMA-**
20 **TION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Associate Adminis-
23 trator for International Trade of the Small Business Ad-
24 ministration shall, after consultation with the entities
25 specified in subsection (b), submit to the appropriate con-

gressional committees a report that includes the recommendations of the Associate Administrator for improving the experience provided by the Internet website Export.gov (or a successor website) as—

(1) a comprehensive resource for information about exporting articles from the United States; and

(2) a single website for exporters to submit all information required by the Federal Government with respect to the exportation of articles from the United States.

(b) ENTITIES SPECIFIED.—The entities specified in this subsection are—

(1) small business concerns (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) that are exporters; and

(2) the President’s Export Council, State agencies with responsibility for export promotion or export financing, district export councils, and trade associations.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Small Business and the
2 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives.

4 **TITLE II—FACILITATION OF EX-**
5 **PORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR**
6 **SMALL BUSINESSES**

7 **SEC. 201. PROMOTION OF EXPORTING.**

8 Section 22(c)(11) of the Small Business Act (15
9 U.S.C. 649(c)(11)) is amended by inserting “, which shall
10 include conducting not fewer than 1 outreach event each
11 fiscal year in each State that promotes exporting as a
12 business development opportunity for small business con-
13 cerns” before the semicolon.

14 **SEC. 202. EXPORT CONTROL EDUCATION.**

15 Section 22 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649)
16 is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection
18 (m); and

19 (2) by inserting after subsection (k) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(l) EXPORT CONTROL EDUCATION.—The Associate
22 Administrator shall ensure that all programs of the Ad-
23 ministration to support exporting by small business con-
24 cerns place a priority on educating small business concerns
25 about Federal export control regulations.”.

1 **SEC. 203. SMALL BUSINESS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON**
2 **EXPORT FINANCING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Small
4 Business Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture, the
5 Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the Over-
6 seas Private Investment Corporation shall jointly establish
7 a Small Business Inter-Agency Task Force on Export Fi-
8 nancing to—

9 (1) review and improve Federal export finance
10 programs for small business concerns; and

11 (2) coordinate the activities of the Federal Gov-
12 ernment to assist small business concerns seeking to
13 export.

14 (b) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—In this section, the
15 term “small business concern” has the meaning given that
16 term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
17 632).

18 **SEC. 204. AVAILABILITY OF STATE RESOURCE GUIDES ON**
19 **EXPORT.GOV.**

20 The Secretary of Commerce shall make available on
21 the Internet website Export.gov (or a successor website)
22 information on the resources relating to export promotion
23 and export financing available in each State—

24 (1) organized by State; and

25 (2) including information on State agencies
26 with responsibility for export promotion or export fi-

- 1 nancing and district export councils and trade asso-
- 2 ciations located in the State.

