

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1853

To provide disaster relief to small businesses, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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## A BILL

To provide disaster relief to 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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Dis-  
5       aster Relief Act of 2017”.

6       **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DISASTER LOAN**  
7       **PROCESSING.**

8       It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator  
9       of the Small Business Administration should use district  
10      offices of the Administration whenever possible to expedite

1 the processing of disaster loans under section 7(b) of the  
 2 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)).

3 **SEC. 3. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PORT-**  
 4 **ABILITY GRANTS.**

5 Section 21(a)(4)(C)(viii) of the Small Business Act  
 6 (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(viii)) is amended—

7 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “as a re-  
 8 sult of a business or government facility down sizing  
 9 or closing, which has resulted in the loss of jobs or  
 10 small business instability” and inserting “due to  
 11 events that have resulted or will result in a business  
 12 or government facility downsizing or closing”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following: “At the  
 14 discretion of the Administrator, the Administrator  
 15 may make an award greater than \$100,000 to a re-  
 16 cipient to accommodate extraordinary occurrences  
 17 having a catastrophic impact on the small business  
 18 concerns in a community.”.

19 **SEC. 4. DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO CRITICAL ENTERPRISES.**

20 Section 237 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (15  
 21 U.S.C. 636d) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
 23 section (c); and

24 (2) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-  
 2 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency”;

3 (B) by striking “major disaster or” and in-  
 4 serting “major disaster or is vital to recovery  
 5 efforts in the disaster area (including providing  
 6 debris removal services, manufactured housing,  
 7 gasoline, telecommunications, or building mate-  
 8 rials),”; and

9 (C) by striking “Loans authorized” and in-  
 10 serting the following:

11 “(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding  
 12 any other provision of law, loans authorized by this sec-  
 13 tion—

14 “(1) shall be made without regard to limitations  
 15 on the size of loans which may otherwise be imposed  
 16 by any other provision of law or regulations promul-  
 17 gated pursuant thereto; and

18 “(2) may waive any required evaluation of cred-  
 19 itworthiness in exchange for a fee, as set by the  
 20 Small Business Administration or the Farm Service  
 21 Agency, as applicable.”.

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