

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2858

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the establishment of a small business voucher program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 16, 2018

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. GARDNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the establishment of a small business voucher program, 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 “Promoting Small Busi-
5 ness Innovation through Partnerships with National Labs
6 Act of 2018”.

7 **SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE.**

8 Section 1003 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
9 U.S.C. 16393) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
3 by striking “, and may require the Director of
4 a single-purpose research facility,” and insert-
5 ing “(as defined in section 2) and the Director
6 of each single-purpose research facility”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by striking “increase” and insert-
9 ing “encourage”; and

10 (ii) by striking “collaborative re-
11 search,” and inserting “research, develop-
12 ment, demonstration, and commercial ap-
13 plication activities, including product devel-
14 opment,”;

15 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “procure-
16 ment and collaborative research” and inserting
17 “the activities described in paragraph (1)”;

18 (D) in paragraph (3)—

19 (i) by inserting “facilities,” before
20 “training”; and

21 (ii) by striking “procurement and col-
22 laborative research activities” and insert-
23 ing “the activities described in paragraph
24 (1)”;

1 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “for the
 2 program under subsection (b)” and inserting
 3 “and metrics for the programs under sub-
 4 sections (b) and (c)”;

5 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
 6 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

7 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 8 lowing:

9 “(c) SMALL BUSINESS VOUCHER PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

11 “(A) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’
 12 means—

13 “(i) the Director of each National
 14 Laboratory; and

15 “(ii) the Director of each single-pur-
 16 pose research facility.

17 “(B) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term
 18 ‘National Laboratory’ has the meaning given
 19 the term in section 2.

20 “(C) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’
 21 means the program established under para-
 22 graph (2).

23 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, work-
 24 ing with the Office of Technology Transitions and
 25 the Technology Transfer Coordinator appointed

1 under section 1001(a), and in consultation with the
2 Directors, shall establish a program to provide small
3 business concerns with vouchers under paragraph
4 (3)—

5 “(A) to achieve the goal described in sub-
6 section (a)(1); and

7 “(B) to improve the products, services, and
8 capabilities of small business concerns in the
9 mission space of the Department.

10 “(3) VOUCHERS.—Under the program, the Di-
11 rectors are authorized to provide to small business
12 concerns vouchers to be used at National Labora-
13 tories and single-purpose research facilities for—

14 “(A) research, development, demonstra-
15 tion, technology transfer, or commercial appli-
16 cation activities; or

17 “(B) any other activities that the applica-
18 ble Director determines appropriate.

19 “(4) EXPEDITED CONTRACTING.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, work-
21 ing with the Directors, shall establish a stream-
22 lined approval process for expedited contracting
23 between—

1 “(i) small business concerns selected
 2 to receive a voucher under the program;
 3 and

4 “(ii) the National Laboratories and
 5 single-purpose research facilities.

6 “(B) DECISIONMAKING AUTHORITY.—The
 7 Secretary shall determine the appropriate deci-
 8 sionmaking authority at the National Labora-
 9 tories and single-purpose research facilities with
 10 respect to the expedited contracting described
 11 in subparagraph (A).

12 “(5) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—In car-
 13 rying out the program, the Secretary shall require
 14 cost-sharing in accordance with section 988.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by
 16 striking “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006
 17 through 2008” and inserting “\$25,000,000 for fiscal
 18 year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

19 **SEC. 3. INCREASE AND STREAMLINE RECOVERY OF UN-**
 20 **CLAIMED ASSETS OWED TO THE UNITED**
 21 **STATES.**

22 Section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, is
 23 amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(j)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in
 25 this subsection as the ‘Secretary’) may locate and recover

1 unclaimed assets of the United States Government on be-
2 half of any executive, judicial, or legislative agency in ac-
3 cordance with such procedures as the Secretary considers
4 appropriate.

5 “(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law con-
6 cerning the depositing or collection of Federal payments,
7 including section 3302(b), the Secretary may retain a por-
8 tion of the amounts recovered under this subsection to
9 cover the administrative and operational costs of the Sec-
10 retary associated with locating and recovering assets of
11 the United States Government.”.

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