

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6133

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship

AN ACT

To reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the
Small Business Administration, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “STEP Improvement
3 Act of 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

5 (a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 22(l)(3)
6 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)) is amend-
7 ed—

8 (1) in subparagraph (D)—

9 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “, including
10 a budget plan for use of funds awarded under
11 this subsection” before the period at the end;
12 and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new
14 clause:

15 “(iii) TIMING.—The Associate Admin-
16 istrator shall—

17 “(I) publish information on how
18 to apply for a grant under this sub-
19 section, including specific calculations
20 and other determinations used to
21 award such a grant, not later than
22 March 31 of each year;

23 “(II) establish a deadline for the
24 submission of applications that is not
25 earlier than 60 days after the date on
26 which the information is published

1 under subclause (I), but in any case
2 not later than May 31; and

3 “(III) announce grant recipients
4 not later than August 31 of each
5 year.”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 paragraphs:

8 “(E) APPLICATION INFORMATION.—The
9 Associate Administrator shall clearly commu-
10 nicate to applicants and grant recipients any in-
11 formation about State Trade Expansion Pro-
12 gram, including—

13 “(i) for each unsuccessful applicant
14 for a grant awarded under this subsection,
15 recommendations to improve a subsequent
16 application for such a grant; and

17 “(ii) for each successful applicant for
18 such a grant, an explanation for the
19 amount awarded, if different from the
20 amount requested in the application.

21 “(F) BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving
23 a grant under this subsection may revise
24 the budget plan of the State submitted

1 under subparagraph (D) after the dis-
2 bursal of grant funds if—

3 “(I) the revision complies with al-
4 lowable uses of grant funds under this
5 subsection; and

6 “(II) such State submits notifica-
7 tion of the revision to the Associate
8 Administrator.

9 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—If a revision under
10 clause (i) reallocates 10 percent or more of
11 the amounts described in the budget plan
12 of the State submitted under subparagraph
13 (D), the State may not implement the re-
14 vised budget plan without the approval of
15 the Associate Administrator, unless the As-
16 sociate Administrator fails to approve or
17 deny the revised plan within 10 days after
18 receipt of such revised plan.”.

19 (b) SURVEY.—Section 22(l) of the Small Business
20 Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through
22 (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;
23 and

24 (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
25 lowing new paragraph:

1 “(7) SURVEY.—The Associate Administrator
2 shall conduct an annual survey of each State that
3 received a grant under this subsection during the
4 preceding year to solicit feedback on the program.”.

5 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 22(l)(8)(B) of the
6 Small Business Act, as redesignated by subsection (b), is
7 amended—

8 (1) in clause (i)—

9 (A) in subclause (III), by inserting “, in-
10 cluding the total number of eligible small busi-
11 ness concerns assisted by the program
12 (disaggregated by socially and economically dis-
13 advantaged small business concerns, small busi-
14 ness concerns owned and controlled by women,
15 and rural small business concerns)” before the
16 semicolon at the end;

17 (B) in subclause (IV), by striking “and” at
18 the end;

19 (C) in subclause (V)—

20 (i) by striking “description of best
21 practices” and inserting “detailed descrip-
22 tion of best practices”; and

23 (ii) by striking the period at the end
24 and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (D) by adding at the end the following new
2 subclauses:

3 “(VI) an analysis of the perform-
4 ance metrics described in clause (iii)
5 and the survey described in paragraph
6 (7); and

7 “(VII) a description of lessons
8 learned by grant recipients under this
9 subsection that may apply to other as-
10 sistance provided by the Administra-
11 tion.”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new
13 clause:

14 “(iii) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—An-
15 nually, the Associate Administrator shall
16 collect data on eligible small business con-
17 cerns assisted by the program on the fol-
18 lowing performance metrics:

19 “(I) Total number of such con-
20 cerns, disaggregated by socially and
21 economically disadvantaged small
22 business concerns, small business con-
23 cerns owned and controlled by women,
24 and rural small business concerns.

1 “(II) Total dollar amount of ex-
2 port sales by eligible small business
3 concerns assisted by the program.

4 “(III) Number of such concerns
5 that have not previously participated
6 in an activity described in paragraph
7 (2).

8 “(IV) Number of such concerns
9 that have previously participated in
10 the program.

11 “(V) Number of such concerns
12 that, because of participation in the
13 program, have accessed a new market.

14 “(VI) Number of such concerns
15 that, because of participation in the
16 program, have created new jobs.

17 “(VII) Number of such concerns
18 participating in foreign trade missions
19 or trade show exhibitions,
20 disaggregated by socially and eco-
21 nomically disadvantaged small busi-
22 ness concerns, small business concerns
23 owned and controlled by women, and
24 rural small business concerns.”.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
2 22(l)(10) of the Small Business Act, as redesignated by
3 subsection (b), is amended by striking “fiscal years 2016
4 through 2020” and inserting “fiscal years 2021 through
5 2024”.

6 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Associate
8 Administrator for International Trade of the Small Busi-
9 ness Administration shall submit to Congress a report on
10 the State Trade Expansion Program established under
11 section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l))
12 that includes a description of—

13 (1) the process developed for review of revised
14 budget plans submitted under section 22(l)(3)(F) of
15 the Small Business Act, as added by this Act;

16 (2) any changes made to streamline the applica-
17 tion process to remove duplicative requirements and
18 create a more transparent process;

19 (3) the process developed to share best prac-
20 tices by States described in section 22(l)(8)(B)(i)(V)
21 (as redesignated by this Act), particularly for first-
22 time grant recipients under the State Trade Expans-
23 sion Program or grant recipients that are facing
24 problems using grant funds; and

Attest: **CHERYL L. JOHNSON,**
Clerk.