

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8844

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 7, 2022

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

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## 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 2022”.

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) and that is not  
2 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 20 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 and develop best practices for grantees.”.

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

9           (1) in clause (i)—

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

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

20           (C) in subclause (V)—

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

24           (ii) by striking the period at the end  
25 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 including a determination of whether  
6 or not any goals relating to such per-  
7 formance metrics were met, and an  
8 analysis of the survey described in  
9 paragraph (7); and

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

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
16 clause:

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

22 “(I) Total number of such con-  
23 cerns, disaggregated by socially and  
24 economically disadvantaged small  
25 business concerns, small business con-

1 concerns owned and controlled by women,  
2 and rural small business concerns.

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

6 “(III) Number of such concerns  
7 that have not previously participated  
8 in an activity described in paragraph  
9 (2).

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

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

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

1 (d) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE SMALL  
2 BUSINESS CONCERN.—Section 22(l)(1)(A) of the Small  
3 Business Act is amended—

4 (1) in clause (iii)(II), by adding “and” at the  
5 end;

6 (2) by striking clause (iv); and

7 (3) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
9 22(l)(10) of the Small Business Act, as redesignated by  
10 subsection (b), is amended by striking “fiscal years 2016  
11 through 2020” and inserting “fiscal years 2023 through  
12 2026”.

13 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year  
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Associate  
15 Administrator for International Trade of the Small Busi-  
16 ness Administration shall submit to Congress a report on  
17 the State Trade Expansion Program established under  
18 section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l))  
19 that includes a description of—

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

23 (2) any changes made to streamline the applica-  
24 tion process to remove duplicative requirements and  
25 create a more transparent process;



