

leadership on this committee for bills that we are very passionate about for Main Street America. I thank my good friend Representative OLSZEWSKI for his support of this bill, as well.

I rise today in support of passing the Small Business Technological Advancement Act through the House.

Small businesses are the backbone of America. They are the backbone of our economy. They create jobs. They strengthen communities, and they drive innovation across our great country.

But in today's economy, Mr. Speaker, no small business can compete effectively without access to modern technology.

Cloud-based accounting systems, payroll platforms, cybersecurity tools, inventory management software, and emerging artificial intelligence applications are not optional any longer if you are going to succeed in small business. They are essential for operating and growing a business.

Yet, under the SBA's 7(a) loan program, there has been unnecessary uncertainty about whether these investments qualify as eligible business expenses.

That confusion has slowed access to capital and really made it tougher for our entrepreneurs to operate and to modernize.

This bill resolves that uncertainty. It ensures that those loans can be used for technology small businesses rely on today, including software, cloud computing services, and other digital tools that improve efficiency and competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know about you, but I am into commonsense solutions for America, and this is one of those. This is a simple, commonsense fix. It doesn't create any new programs. It doesn't expand the scope of Federal lending. It simply provides clarity so that lenders and small business owners can move forward with confidence.

If we want Main Street to compete in a modern digital economy, our laws must reflect that reality, and that is why I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for the Small Business Technological Advancement Act.

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the 7(a) program provided more than 78,000 loans to small businesses worth more than \$37.2 billion. Thus far, in 2026, the program has originated more than 38,000 loans worth more than \$20.3 billion with an average loan size of approximately \$533,000.

As I mentioned earlier, small businesses have been able to utilize 7(a) loans to finance digital tools, including software and cloud computing services. The SBA further clarified that position last June, yet some businesses have still reported uncertainty about using 7(a) loans for these purposes.

I support this legislation, as it will codify that clarification and end any

confusion once and for all by making clear that these loans can indeed be used to finance digital tools.

I, again, thank Representatives ALFORD and MCGARVEY for leading on this bipartisan effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 915 because access to technologies increases efficiency and productivity, and will help small businesses remain competitive in an increasingly digital marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 915, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DISASTER LOAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4238) to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4238

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Loan Accountability and Reform Act" or the "DLARA".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Monthly disaster loan reports.
- Sec. 5. Budget request relating to disaster loans.
- Sec. 6. Limitations on disaster loans.
- Sec. 7. GAO report on SBA disaster loan account.
- Sec. 8. GAO report on disaster loan changes.
- Sec. 9. Budget and forecasting report regarding the cost of direct disaster loans.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the terms "Administration" and "Administrator" mean the Small Business Ad-

ministration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(2) the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the term "SBA disaster loan" means a direct loan authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), other than a loan that was authorized under section 1110 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009).

SEC. 4. MONTHLY DISASTER LOAN REPORTS.

Section 12091(a) of the Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 636k(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "during the applicable period for a major disaster"; and

(B) by striking "for that major disaster";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking "how long the available funding for such loans will last" and inserting "the date at which available funding for such loans will reach 10 percent of the most recent appropriation and the date at which the funds will be depleted";

(B) in subparagraph (H), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(J) a summary detailing any changes to estimates or assumptions on obligations and expenditures, including data supporting these changes."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) PROHIBITION ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL.—If the Administrator does not submit a report required to be submitted under paragraph (1) by the required date, no funds are authorized to be appropriated for official travel by the Administrator until the Administrator submits the report."

SEC. 5. BUDGET REQUEST RELATING TO DISASTER LOANS.

Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(39) separate statements of—

"(A) the amount of appropriations requested for the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted for the cost of SBA disaster loans, the 10-year average of the cost of SBA disaster loans, and an explanation for any difference between the amount requested and the 10-year average cost; and

"(B) the amount of appropriations requested for the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted for the cost of COVID-EIDL loans, the 10-year average of the cost of COVID-EIDL loans, and an explanation for any difference between the amount requested and the 10-year average cost.

"(40) separate statements of—

"(A) the amount of appropriations requested for the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted for administrative costs relating to SBA disaster loans, the 10-year average of such administrative costs, and an explanation for any difference between the amount requested and the 10-year average costs; and

"(B) the amount of appropriations requested for the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted for administrative costs relating to COVID-EIDL loans, the 10-year average of such administrative costs, and an explanation for any difference between the amount requested and the 10-year average costs."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(j) In paragraphs (39) and (40) of subsection (a)—

“(1) the term ‘COVID-EIDL loan’ means a direct loan under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) that was authorized under section 1110 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009); and

“(2) the term ‘SBA disaster loan’ means a direct loan authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), other than a loan that was authorized under section 1110 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009).”.

SEC. 6. LIMITATIONS ON DISASTER LOANS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second paragraph designated as paragraph (16), relating to statute of limitations, as added by the COVID-19 EIDL Fraud Statute of Limitations Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-165; 136 Stat. 1363), as paragraph (18); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (16), relating to disaster declarations in rural areas, as added by the Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act (Public Law 117-249; 136 Stat. 2350), the following:

“(17) REQUIREMENTS WHEN FUNDING IS LOW.—Not later than 24 hours after the balance of funds authorized to be appropriated for the cost of direct loans authorized by this subsection is less than 10 percent of the 10-year average annual cost provided in the most recent Presidential budget request required under section 1105(a)(39)(A) of title 31, United States Code, or, if unavailable, the 10-year average annual cost for the immediately preceding 10-year period of SBA disaster loans (as defined in section 1105(j) of such title), the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.”.

SEC. 7. GAO REPORT ON SBA DISASTER LOAN ACCOUNT.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Administrator and the appropriate committees of Congress a report on—

(1) the average weekly rate at which the Administration obligates the unobligated balance of amounts available for the cost of SBA disaster loans;

(2) the average amount, during the periods beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on July 31, 2023, and beginning on July 31, 2023, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, respectively, disbursed to a borrower each week, during the initial 12-week period in which a borrower receives amounts from an SBA disaster loan, beginning the day after the borrower accepts their loan, separated by home SBA disaster loan borrowers, business SBA disaster loan borrowers, and economic injury disaster loan borrowers; and

(3) the average amount of fully disbursed SBA disaster loans, originated during the period beginning on July 31, 2023, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, with separate averages for SBA disaster loans delineated by home, business, and economic injury disaster loans.

(b) RESPONSE.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States submits the report under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a response to the report, including an implementation plan for any recommendations in the report.

SEC. 8. GAO REPORT ON DISASTER LOAN CHANGES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “covered final rule” means—

(1) the final rule entitled “Disaster Assistance Loan Program Changes to Maximum

Loan Amounts and Miscellaneous Updates” (88 Fed. Reg. 39335 (June 16, 2023); RIN 3245-AH91); or

(2) the final rule entitled “Disaster Assistance Loan Program Changes to Unsecured Loan Amounts and Credit Elsewhere Criteria” (89 Fed. Reg. 59826 (July 24, 2024); RIN 3245-A108).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on—

(1) the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of the increase in the home loan lending limits for, the extension of the deferment period for, the expansion of mitigation options for, the modifications to the criteria for determining whether applicants can obtain credit elsewhere with respect to, the changes to collateral requirements for, and other changes to the terms and conditions of loans under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) made by the covered final rules; and

(2) the effect on the subsidy for such loans of the changes contained in the covered final rules.

SEC. 9. BUDGET AND FORECASTING REPORT REGARDING THE COST OF DIRECT DISASTER LOANS.

(a) BUDGET FORMULATION AND FORECASTING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing corrections the Administration will make to improve forecasting, data quality, and budget assumptions relating to budget submissions relating to amounts made available for the cost of SBA disaster loans.

(b) UPDATES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date that is 90 days after the date on which all the corrections described in subsection (a) have been implemented, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

(1) detailing the actions the Administration has taken to implement the corrections described in subsection (a); and

(2) explaining how each action detailed under paragraph (1) is directly related to implementing 1 or more corrections described in subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4238, the Disaster Loan Accountability and Reform Act introduced by Representative MOORE from the great State of North Carolina.

Disaster survivors should not have to wonder whether relief will arrive in

time. Instead, they should be able to trust that the programs designed to help them recover are prepared to meet the moment.

The SBA’s disaster loan program serves as a critical lifeline for families, homeowners, and small businesses recovering from natural disasters. Communities hit by hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and other emergencies use these loans to rebuild their homes, restore their livelihoods, and get themselves back on their feet.

That is why it was so concerning that during the 2024 hurricane season, the SBA disaster loan program exhausted its funding and was forced to pause new loan disbursements while communities were actively recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

The disruption highlighted serious concerns about the program’s budgeting, oversight, and communication processes.

It is a sobering thought to know that at a time when thousands of vulnerable Americans were seeking assistance, the program was unable to provide the support they needed. Americans who have already survived a disaster should not face additional uncertainty because of preventable administrative failures.

This legislation will ensure that the SBA disaster relief programs will be backed by strong oversight, transparent budgeting, and timely communication with Congress.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4238. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, SBA loans provide long-term, low-interest capital to homeowners, renters, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits after declared disasters, playing a critical role in Federal disaster response and recovery.

In 2024, several major hurricanes made landfall in the U.S., crippling not only our communities but SBA’s disaster loan fund, as well.

On October 15, 2024, the agency announced its disaster loan funds had been exhausted, and it couldn’t approve or disburse new loans until Congress appropriated extra money delaying much-needed relief to the affected areas.

Ultimately, this failure was caused by a lack of communication from the SBA to Congress. They failed to submit required reports on the disaster program, and they didn’t give Congress enough notice to replenish the funds. That is why the Disaster Loan Accountability Reform Act, or DLARA, is necessary.

This bill would expand SBA disaster loan notice and reporting requirements, create specific budget line items for disaster loans, and direct the U.S. Government Accountability Office to study how previous rulemaking has impacted the speed of disaster loan disbursement.

I commend Representatives DAVIS and MOORE of North Carolina, as well

as Ms. GOODLANDER, Ms. KING-HINDS, and Mr. MEUSER for working together on this critical issues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge members to support this bill, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS OF Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I will first start off with thanking my colleague on the other side of the aisle for his support on this. It is great when we can do bipartisan things, particularly on such subject matter.

I rise today in support of my bill, the Disaster Loan Accountability and Reform Act. When Hurricane Helene struck western North Carolina and so many other States, small businesses were on the front lines of recovery.

They stepped up to serve their communities and support their neighbors. They led, in a lot of ways, the response when it was needed most.

When disaster hits, speed matters.

Delays can determine whether businesses reopen or whether homes are repaired. The longer it takes for a community to rebuild, the greater the strain on the local economy.

That is why the Small Business Administration's Disaster Loan Program is so important.

It provides low-interest, long-term loans that help homeowners and businesses recover, rebuild, and get back on their feet.

Unfortunately, a few years ago, the SBA failed to notify Congress that the disaster loan account was running dangerously low on funds.

So what happened?

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As a result, the program experienced a 66-day funding shortfall. What that did, Mr. Speaker, was leave homeowners and small businesses unable to access critical disaster assistance when they needed it most.

Hurricane Helene exposed serious weaknesses in the oversight and management of this account. We should learn from these failures rather than allowing them to be repeated.

That is why I introduced this bill. It strengthens oversight, increases transparency, and also puts in place even better financial safeguards within the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program.

These reforms are going to help ensure that Congress receives timely information, that resources are managed responsibly, and that disaster assistance remains available when Americans need it, not after it is too late.

Homeowners and small businesses cannot afford delays after a disaster. This ensures that the Federal Government is better prepared to respond quickly, effectively, and responsibly when disaster strikes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, DLARA would make numerous bipartisan reforms to the SBA disaster loan program, like expanded notice and reporting requirements, separate budget line items, and professional evaluations of the program's administration in light of recent rule changes.

This bill will go a long way to ensure that the disaster loan account does not run out of funds again and that disaster victims receive assistance in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, we must pass H.R. 4238 to strengthen oversight of the SBA disaster loan program. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4238, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OVERSIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY FOR SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATIONS ACT OF 2026

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8879) to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on small business concern participation in a covered contracting programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8879

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Oversight and Transparency for Small Business Certifications Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN PARTICIPATION IN A COVERED CONTRACTING PROGRAMS.

Section 10(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 639(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) CERTIFICATION REPORTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Along with the submission to Congress of the budget of the President for each fiscal year pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator shall submit a report on small business concern participation in a covered contracting program during the year covered by the report that includes the following:

"(A) The total number of unique small business concerns certified for participation in a covered contracting program.

"(B) With respect to applications of small business concerns for participation in a covered contracting program—

"(i) the total number of applications for participation that have sufficient information for the Administrator to issue a certification determination, disaggregated by—

"(I) the number of applications certified for each covered contracting program; and

"(II) the number of applications for which a determination has not been made for any covered contracting program;

"(ii) the number of applications for certification for two or more covered contracting programs and the percentage of total applicants that received two or more certifications;

"(iii) the number of applications received through the single, unified platform established by the Administrator for receipt of certification applications; and

"(iv) the number of small business concerns certified for participation in a covered contracting program for which such certification documentation is contain in a system other than the platform described in clause (iii), disaggregated by covered contracting program.

"(C) With respect to applications of small business concerns for certification as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans that have sufficient information for the Administrator to issue a certification determination—

"(i) the number of applications certified;

"(ii) the number of applications denied; and

"(iii) the number of applications for which a determination has not been made.

"(D) With respect to each application of a small business concern for certification as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, the timeframe between the date of submission of a completed application and the issuance of a certification or recertification determination, disaggregated by—

"(i) the number, expressed as a percentage, of certification determinations made within the timeframe established by the Administration;

"(ii) the average time for a first-time applicant to receive a certification determination; and

"(iii) the average time for an applicant that is a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans to receive a recertification determination.

"(E) With respect to applications of small business concerns for certification as a small business concern owned and controlled by women that have sufficient information for the Administrator to issue a certification determination—

"(i) the number of applications certified;

"(ii) of the applications described in clause (i), the number certified that are eligible for award of a sole source contract under section 8(m)(7);

"(iii) the number of applications certified that were processed by a national certifying entity described in section 8(m)(2)(E);

"(iv) the number of applications denied; and

"(v) the number of applications for which a determination has not been made.

"(F) Of the applications described in subparagraph (E)(ii), the number of such applications that initially did not include sufficient information for the Administrator to issue a certification determination.

"(G) With respect to each application of a small business concern for certification as a small business concern owned and controlled by women, the timeframe between the date of submission of a completed application and the issuance of a certification or recertification determination, disaggregated by—

"(i) the number, expressed as a percentage, of certification determinations made within