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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Office of Rural Affairs  
5       Enhancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE SMALL BUSI-**  
2 **NESS ADMINISTRATION.**

3 Section 26 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 653)  
4 is amended—

5 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-  
6 lows:

7 “(b) APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-  
8 TRATOR.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be admin-  
10 istered by an Assistant Administrator, who shall be  
11 an employee in the competitive service.

12 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Admin-  
13 istrator shall—

14 “(A) have education or professional experi-  
15 ence with, or knowledge of, rural affairs and  
16 issues relating to small business concerns; and

17 “(B) have experience providing develop-  
18 ment assistance to rural small business con-  
19 cerns.”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “small  
22 business concerns located in rural areas” and  
23 inserting “rural small business concerns”;

24 (B) in paragraph (3)—

25 (i) by striking “provide information”  
26 and inserting “promote”; and

1 (ii) by striking “concerning the” and  
2 all that follows through the semicolon at  
3 the end and inserting the following: “on  
4 the policies and programs of the Adminis-  
5 tration and of other Federal departments  
6 and agencies for assisting rural small busi-  
7 ness concerns;”;

8 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and”  
9 and inserting a semicolon;  
10 (D) in paragraph (5)—

11 (i) by striking “the United States  
12 Tourism and Travel Administration” and  
13 inserting “the National Travel and Tour-  
14 ism Office of the Department of Com-  
15 merce”;

16 (ii) by striking “small businesses in  
17 rural areas” and inserting “rural small  
18 business concerns”; and

19 (iii) by striking the period at the end  
20 and inserting “; and”; and

21 (E) by adding at the end the following new  
22 paragraph:

23 “(6) host webinars and outreach events for  
24 rural small business concerns as described in sub-  
25 section (d).”; and

1           (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
2       sections:

3       “(d) OUTREACH.—The Assistant Administrator  
4 shall—

5           “(1) host webinars and outreach events in var-  
6       ious regions of the United States for rural small  
7       business concerns; and

8           “(2) invite representatives from district offices  
9       of the Administration, resource partners, Federal  
10      and State agencies, and other interested persons to  
11      participate in such webinars and outreach events.

12      “(e) REPORT.—

13           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
14      after the date of the enactment of this subsection,  
15      and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall sub-  
16      mit to the Committee on Small Business of the  
17      House of Representatives and the Committee on  
18      Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate,  
19      and make publicly available on a website of the Ad-  
20      ministration, a report on the activities of the Office  
21      during the one-year period immediately preceding  
22      the date of submission of the report.

23           “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required under  
24      paragraph (1) shall include the following:

1           “(A) The operational details of the Office,  
2           including the name of the Assistant Adminis-  
3           trator, the budget of the Office, and the num-  
4           ber of full-time employees employed by or de-  
5           tailed to the Office.

6           “(B) A summary of the activities con-  
7           ducted under subsection (c).

8           “(C) The number of webinars and out-  
9           reach events conducted by the Administration  
10          to promote policies and programs described in  
11          paragraph (3) of subsection (c) and to provide  
12          information described in paragraph (4) of such  
13          subsection.

14          “(D) An analysis of the lending programs  
15          of the Administration in serving the needs of  
16          rural small business concerns.

17          “(E) Information gathered from any  
18          webinars and outreach events conducted by the  
19          Administration during the period covered by the  
20          report.

21          “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22               “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term  
23               ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-  
24               ministrators of the Office of Rural Affairs appointed  
25               under subsection (b).

1           “(2) RESOURCE PARTNERS.—The term ‘re-  
2       source partners’ means—

3           “(A) small business development centers;

4           “(B) women’s business centers (described  
5       under section 29);

6           “(C) chapters of the Service Corps of Re-  
7       tired Executives (established under section  
8       8(b)(1)(B)); and

9           “(D) Veteran Business Outreach Centers  
10       (described under section 32).

11          “(3) RURAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The  
12       term ‘rural small business concern’ means a small  
13       business concern located in a rural area (as defined  
14       in section 7(b)(16) of this Act).”.