

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. _____

To reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “STEP Improvement
5 Act of 2020”.

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

7 (a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 22(1)(3)
8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(1)(3)) is amend-
9 ed—

1 (1) in subparagraph (D)—

2 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “, including
3 a budget plan for use of funds awarded under
4 this subsection” before the period at the end;
5 and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following new
7 clause:

8 “(iii) TIMING.—The Associate Admin-
9 istrator shall—

10 “(I) publish information on how
11 to apply for a grant under this sub-
12 section, including specific calculations
13 and other determinations used to
14 award such a grant, not later than
15 March 31 of each year;

16 “(II) establish a deadline for the
17 submission of applications that is not
18 earlier than 60 days after the date on
19 which the information is published
20 under subclause (I), but in any case
21 not later than May 31; and

22 “(III) announce grant recipients
23 not later than August 31 of each
24 year.”; and

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

3 “(E) APPLICATION INFORMATION.—The
4 Associate Administrator shall clearly commu-
5 nicate to applicants and grant recipients any in-
6 formation about State Trade Expansion Pro-
7 gram, including—

8 “(i) for each unsuccessful applicant
9 for a grant awarded under this subsection,
10 recommendations to improve a subsequent
11 application for such a grant; and

12 “(ii) for each successful applicant for
13 such a grant, an explanation for the
14 amount awarded, if different from the
15 amount requested in the application.

16 “(F) BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving
18 a grant under this subsection may revise
19 the budget plan of the State submitted
20 under subparagraph (D) after the dis-
21 bursal of grant funds if—

22 “(I) the revision complies with al-
23 lowable uses of grant funds under this
24 subsection; and

1 “(II) such State submits notifica-
2 tion of the revision to the Associate
3 Administrator.

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

14 (b) SURVEY.—Section 22(1) of the Small Business
15 Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through
17 (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;
18 and

19 (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
20 lowing new paragraph:

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

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

4 (1) in clause (i)—

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

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

15 (C) in subclause (V)—

16 (i) by striking “description of best
17 practices” and inserting “detailed descrip-
18 tion of best practices”; and

19 (ii) by striking the period at the end
20 and inserting a semicolon; and

21 (D) by adding at the end the following new
22 subclauses:

23 “(VI) an analysis of the perform-
24 ance metrics described in clause (iii)

1 and the survey described in paragraph
2 (7); and

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

8 (2) by adding at the end the following new
9 clause:

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

15 “(I) Total number of such con-
16 cerns, disaggregated by socially and
17 economically disadvantaged small
18 business concerns, small business con-
19 cerns owned and controlled by women,
20 and rural small business concerns.

21 “(II) Total dollar amount of ex-
22 port sales by eligible small business
23 concerns assisted by the program.

24 “(III) Number of such concerns
25 that have not previously participated

1 in an activity described in paragraph
2 (2).

3 “(IV) Number of such concerns
4 that have previously participated in
5 the program.

6 “(V) Number of such concerns
7 that, because of participation in the
8 program, have accessed a new market.

9 “(VI) Number of such concerns
10 that, because of participation in the
11 program, have created new jobs.

12 “(VII) Number of such concerns
13 participating in foreign trade missions
14 or trade show exhibitions,
15 disaggregated by socially and eco-
16 nomically disadvantaged small busi-
17 ness concerns, small business concerns
18 owned and controlled by women, and
19 rural small business concerns.”.

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
21 22(l)(10) of the Small Business Act, as redesignated by
22 subsection (b), is amended by striking “fiscal years 2016
23 through 2020” and inserting “fiscal years 2021 through
24 2024”.

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

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

11 (2) any changes made to streamline the applica-
12 tion process to remove duplicative requirements and
13 create a more transparent process;

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

20 (4) the process developed to communicate, both
21 verbally and in writing, relevant information about
22 the State Trade Expansion Program to all grant re-
23 cipients in a timely manner.