

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3771

To amend the Small Business Act to establish mentorship and assistance programs designed to help minority, veteran-owned, and women-owned small businesses operate in the construction industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2009

Ms. CLARKE (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HARE, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. RICHARDSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to establish mentorship and assistance programs designed to help minority, veteran-owned, and women-owned small businesses operate in the construction industry, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) The construction industry often serves as a
2 preferred entry point for emerging small businesses,
3 including those undertaken by minorities, women
4 and veterans, which may conduct business as con-
5 tractors, specialty trade contractors, suppliers, fab-
6 ricators, vendors or a myriad of other businesses
7 serving the needs of the construction industry.

8 (2) Construction provides rewarding careers,
9 but is a challenging and competitive business envi-
10 ronment that demands specialized knowledge and
11 skill sets of business owners, especially small and
12 emerging businesses owned by minorities, women,
13 and veterans, who may be underrepresented or dis-
14 advantaged or who have given service unselfishly to
15 their country.

16 **SEC. 2. MENTORSHIP AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR MI-**
17 **NORITY, VETERAN-OWNED, AND WOMEN-**
18 **OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES WITH RESPECT**
19 **TO CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE**
20 **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.**

21 The Small Business Act is amended by redesignating
22 section 44 as section 45 and by inserting after section 43
23 the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 44. MENTORSHIP AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR**
2 **MINORITY, VETERAN-OWNED, AND WOMEN-**
3 **OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES WITH RESPECT**
4 **TO CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE**
5 **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall estab-
7 lish programs for the purpose of assisting eligible small
8 business concerns to gain access to the specialized knowl-
9 edge and professional services needed to operate business
10 concerns in the construction industry, enhance their ca-
11 pacities and their qualifications for financial and surety
12 credit, and access and compete for construction con-
13 tracting opportunities.

14 “(b) GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERN-
15 MENTS.—The Administrator may make grants to State
16 and local government entities to assist such entities—

17 “(1) to establish or expand mentorship and as-
18 sistance programs designed to carry out the pur-
19 poses of this section;

20 “(2) to identify problems and solutions regard-
21 ing eligible small business concerns in the construc-
22 tion industry;

23 “(3) to establish performance criteria and ob-
24 jectives with respect to the mentoring and assistance
25 programs;

1 “(4) to encourage the involvement of relevant
2 industry trade associations to partner with State
3 and local government entities to carry out the pur-
4 poses of this section;

5 “(5) to establish and fund State and local grant
6 programs for universities, colleges, community col-
7 leges and vocational/technical schools, and for busi-
8 ness leagues or for similar not for profit entities that
9 conduct business or executive training programs to
10 develop and administer a standing curriculum bene-
11 fitting owners and executives of eligible small busi-
12 ness concerns and focused on business, financial ac-
13 counting, and risk management courses addressing
14 the operation of small business concerns in the con-
15 struction industry; and

16 “(6) to establish and fund State and local grant
17 programs to award eligible small business concerns
18 grants of not more than \$15,000 each to pay for the
19 services of legal, accounting, and other business con-
20 sultants to prepare such concerns for qualifying for
21 financial and surety credit.

22 “(c) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator shall
23 provide support and resources to State and local govern-
24 ment entities receiving assistance under this section, in-

1 cluding training and marketing materials and assistance
2 in joint marketing and outreach campaigns.

3 “(d) ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—For
4 purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible small business
5 concern’ means—

6 “(1) any small business concern owned and con-
7 trolled by women (as defined in section 3(n));

8 “(2) any socially and economically disadvan-
9 tagged small business concern (as defined in section
10 8(a)(4)); and

11 “(3) any small business concern owned and con-
12 trolled by veterans (as defined in section 3(q)), espe-
13 cially service-disabled veterans (as defined in such
14 section).

15 “(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Entities receiving assist-
16 ance under this section shall report annually to the Ad-
17 ministrator on their activities under this section.

18 “(f) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
19 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
20 section.”.

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