

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6894

To amend the Small Business Act to ensure that applicants with a criminal record are eligible for certain loans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2020

Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. HAALAND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to ensure that applicants with a criminal record are eligible for certain loans, 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 “Fair Chance for Small
5 Business Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN LOANS FOR APPLICANTS**
2 **WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD.**

3 (a) GENERAL BUSINESS LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1)(B)
4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)(B)) is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 “(B) CRIMINAL HISTORY.—The Adminis-
7 trator may not decline to provide a guarantee
8 for a loan made under this subsection solely on
9 the basis that an otherwise eligible applicant, or
10 a person with any equity stake in the eligible
11 applicant—

12 “(i) is on probation or on parole;

13 “(ii) is presently subject to an indict-
14 ment, criminal information, arraignment,
15 or other means by which formal criminal
16 charges are brought in any jurisdiction; or

17 “(iii) has been arrested or convicted of
18 any crime.”.

19 (b) ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.—The flush
20 matter following subparagraph (E) of section 7(b)(2) of
21 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(2)) is amended
22 by striking the period at the end and inserting the fol-
23 lowing: “: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this para-
24 graph, the Administrator may not decline to provide a loan
25 or guarantee under this subsection solely on the basis that
26 an otherwise eligible applicant, or a person with any equity

1 stake in the eligible applicant, is on probation or on parole,
2 is presently subject to an indictment, criminal informa-
3 tion, arraignment, or other means by which formal crimi-
4 nal charges are brought in any jurisdiction, or has been
5 arrested or convicted of any crime.”.

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