

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1146

To enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2017

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, 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 “Small Business Regu-
5 latory Relief Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

1 (1) the term “Ombudsman” has the meaning
2 given that term in section 30(a) of the Small Busi-
3 ness Act 15 U.S.C. 657(a)); and

4 (2) the term “small business concern” has the
5 meaning given that term under section 3 of the
6 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

7 **SEC. 3. SBA REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT OMBUDSMAN.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 30(b) of the Small Busi-
9 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 657(b)(2)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (2)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (i) by striking “with each agency with
13 regulatory authority” and inserting the fol-
14 lowing: “with—

15 “(i) each Federal agency with regu-
16 latory authority”;

17 (ii) by inserting “and” after the semi-
18 colon; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(ii) each Federal agency with regu-
22 latory authority over small business con-
23 cerns or that makes grants or enters into
24 contracts or cooperative agreements with

1 small business concerns to develop best
2 practices to assist the Federal agency in—

3 “(I) establishing a program to
4 assist small entities, as defined in sec-
5 tion 601 of title 5, United States
6 Code, in meeting regulatory require-
7 ments imposed by that Federal agen-
8 cy, including by responding to inquir-
9 ies under section 213 of the Small
10 Business Regulatory Enforcement
11 Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601
12 note);

13 “(II) educating small entities
14 about the regulations of that Federal
15 agency that are applicable to small en-
16 tities;

17 “(III) training small entities to
18 comply with the regulations of that
19 Federal agency;

20 “(IV) assisting small entities in
21 completing forms required by the reg-
22 ulations of that Federal agency;

23 “(V) addressing any specific
24 question or concern of small entities;

1 “(VI) evaluating compliance
2 guides described under section 212 of
3 the Small Business Regulatory En-
4 forcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5
5 U.S.C. 601 note);

6 “(VII) ensuring that the compli-
7 ance guides described in subclause
8 (VI) are available to small business
9 development centers and to other re-
10 source partners of the Administration;

11 “(VIII) developing webinars re-
12 lating to compliance assistance for—

13 “(aa) recently finalized rules
14 of the Federal agency; and

15 “(bb) rules relating to which
16 the Federal agency or Ombuds-
17 man receives a significant num-
18 ber of compliance inquiries from
19 small business concerns; and

20 “(IX) conducting customer serv-
21 ice surveys on an ongoing basis of
22 small business concerns that interact
23 with the Federal agency to assess the
24 timeliness and quality of the activities
25 of the Federal agency, which shall be

1 conducted in a manner that allows the
2 results of the surveys to be incor-
3 porated into the rating of the respon-
4 siveness of the Federal agency under
5 subparagraph (C);”;

6 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking
7 “and” at the end;

8 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
9 period and inserting a semicolon; and

10 (D) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(F) in collaboration with the employee of
12 a Federal agency designated by the head of the
13 Federal agency as the primary point of contact
14 with the Ombudsman, establish a procedure re-
15 lating to how the Federal agency will provide
16 information—

17 “(i) to small business concerns re-
18 garding the Ombudsman; and

19 “(ii) to the Ombudsman regarding the
20 nature, scope, and resolution of requests to
21 the Federal agency from small business
22 concerns about proposed, final, or existing
23 rules;

24 “(G) work with each Federal agency with
25 regulatory authority over small business con-

1 cerns and with programs of the Administration
2 (including the Service Corps of Retired Execu-
3 tives authorized under section 8(b)(1)(B), wom-
4 en’s business centers operating under section
5 29, and small business development centers) to
6 conduct a robust outreach initiative, including
7 through the use of the Internet, to increase the
8 visibility of the Ombudsman and promote
9 awareness of the services available from the
10 Ombudsman; and

11 “(H) make information regarding the edu-
12 cation, training, and compliance assistance serv-
13 ices of the Ombudsman readily available on the
14 website of the Ombudsman.”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(3)(A) The head of each Federal agency with
17 regulatory authority over small business concerns or
18 that makes grants or enters into contracts or coop-
19 erative agreements with small business concerns
20 shall designate an employee of the Federal agency as
21 the primary point of contact with the Ombudsman.

22 “(B) The employee designated under subpara-
23 graph (A) shall have the authority to make changes
24 necessary to address compliance issues raised by
25 small business concerns.”.

1 (b) **RESOURCES.**—The Ombudsman shall appoint ad-
2 ditional individuals to positions in which they will provide
3 education, training, and compliance assistance to small
4 business concerns.

5 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 Section 30 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657)
7 is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 such sums as are necessary.”.

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