

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1402

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development, to establish a grant program to create or expand programs at minority-serving institutions and historically Black colleges and universities that promote minority business ownership and entrepreneurship, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2023

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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## A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development, to establish a grant program to create or expand programs at minority-serving institutions and historically Black colleges and universities that promote minority business ownership and entrepreneurship, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Minority Entrepre-  
3 neurship Grant Program Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
7 trator” means the Administrator of the Small Busi-  
8 ness Administration.

9 (2) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the Mi-  
10 nority Entrepreneurship Advisory Board established  
11 under section 4(a).

12 (3) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-  
13 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or  
14 university” means a part B institution, as that term  
15 is defined in section 322 of the Higher Education  
16 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

17 (4) MINORITY.—The term “minority” includes  
18 an individual who is—

19 (A) Black or African American;

20 (B) Hispanic or Latino;

21 (C) Native or Indigenous American;

22 (D) Asian;

23 (E) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Is-  
24 lander;

25 (F) Native Alaskan; or

1 (G) a member of a group that the Minority  
2 Business Development Agency of the Depart-  
3 ment of Commerce determines under part 1400  
4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, as in  
5 effect on November 23, 1984, is a socially dis-  
6 advantaged group eligible to receive assistance.

7 (5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The  
8 term “minority-serving institution” means any of  
9 the following:

10 (A) A Hispanic-serving institution, as that  
11 term is defined in section 502(a) of the Higher  
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)).

13 (B) A Tribal College or University, as that  
14 term is defined in section 316(b) of the Higher  
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

16 (C) An Alaska Native-serving institution,  
17 as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the  
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
19 1059d(b)).

20 (D) A Native Hawaiian-serving institution,  
21 as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the  
22 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
23 1059d(b)).

24 (E) A Predominantly Black Institution, as  
25 that term is defined in section 318(b) of the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
2 1059e(b)).

3 (F) A Native American-serving, nontribal  
4 institution, as that term is defined in section  
5 319(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
6 (20 U.S.C. 1059f(b)).

7 (G) An Asian American and Native Amer-  
8 ican Pacific Islander-serving institution, as that  
9 term is defined in section 320(b) of the Higher  
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059g(b)).

11 (6) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
12 the grant program established under section 3(a).

13 (7) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term  
14 “small business concern” has the meaning given the  
15 term in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15  
16 U.S.C. 632(a)).

17 (8) STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR.—The term  
18 “student entrepreneur” means a student who is—

19 (A) a minority;

20 (B) enrolled at a minority-serving institu-  
21 tion or a historically Black college or university;  
22 and

23 (C) seeking to establish or develop a busi-  
24 ness.

1           (9) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under  
2           Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce  
3           for Minority Business Development.

4 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

5           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in  
7 consultation with the Under Secretary, shall establish a  
8 grant program within the Small Business Administration,  
9 the purpose of which shall be to create or expand pro-  
10 grams at minority-serving institutions and historically  
11 Black colleges and universities that foster, promote, and  
12 increase opportunities for minority business ownership.

13           (b) APPLICATION PROCESS.—A minority-serving in-  
14 stitution or a historically Black college or university seek-  
15 ing a grant under the Program shall submit to the Admin-  
16 istrator an application that contains a description of—

17           (1) the need for the grant funds to promote mi-  
18 nority entrepreneurship and business ownership  
19 among student entrepreneurs enrolled at the minor-  
20 ity-serving institution or the historically Black col-  
21 lege or university;

22           (2) how the grant funds will be used to carry  
23 out the activities described in paragraph (1);

24           (3) how the programs created or expanded with  
25 the grant funds will provide support to student en-

1       trepreneurs enrolled at the minority-serving institu-  
2       tion or historically Black college or university who—

3               (A) seek support for an established busi-  
4       ness; or

5               (B) need assistance in establishing a busi-  
6       ness; and

7       (4) how the minority-serving institution or his-  
8       torically Black college or university will create or ex-  
9       pand programs or initiatives that—

10              (A) increase minority business ownership;  
11       and

12              (B) expand business resources to student  
13       entrepreneurs enrolled at the minority-serving  
14       institution or historically Black college or uni-  
15       versity.

16       (c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant made to a minor-  
17       ity-serving institution or a historically Black college or  
18       university under the Program shall be not less than  
19       \$250,000.

20       (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—With a grant received  
21       under the Program, a minority-serving institution or a his-  
22       torically Black college or university shall support the cre-  
23       ation or expansion of programs or initiatives that offer  
24       business development resources that support student en-

1 trepreneurs enrolled at the minority-serving institution or  
2 historically Black college or university, such as—

3 (1) free legal, accounting, human resources, in-  
4 formation technology, marketing, training, coun-  
5 seling, networking, and technical assistance; and

6 (2) access to capital resources, such as the  
7 costs associated with forming a new business enter-  
8 prise.

9 (e) MSI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT.—A minority-  
10 serving institution or historically Black college or univer-  
11 sity to which a grant is made under the Program shall,  
12 each year, submit to the Administrator a mid-year and  
13 year-end report, each of which shall contain, for the period  
14 covered by the report, the number of—

15 (1) student entrepreneurs trained, assisted, and  
16 counseled with the grant funds;

17 (2) businesses created through the expenditure  
18 of the grant funds, including, with respect to each  
19 such business—

20 (A) the name of the business;

21 (B) a description of the business; and

22 (C) the amount of grant funds expended in  
23 creating the business;

24 (3) student entrepreneurs referred to other re-  
25 sources of the Small Business Administration; and

1           (4) student entrepreneurs participating in pro-  
2           grams created or expanded through the expenditure  
3           of the grant funds, which, to the extent possible,  
4           shall be disaggregated by sex, race, and ethnicity.

5           (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18  
6           months after the date on which the first grant is made  
7           under the Program, and annually thereafter, the Adminis-  
8           trator shall submit to Congress a report that contains in-  
9           formation regarding the minority-serving institutions and  
10          historically Black colleges or universities to which grants  
11          were made under the Program for the period covered by  
12          the report, which shall include—

13                 (1) the name of each such minority-serving in-  
14                 stitution and historically Black college or university  
15                 and the amount of each such grant;

16                 (2) the number of student entrepreneurs  
17                 trained, assisted, and counseled with Program grant  
18                 funds—

19                         (A) at each minority-serving institution  
20                         and historically Black college or university to  
21                         which a grant was made under the Program;  
22                         and

23                         (B) in total under the Program;

24                 (3) the number of businesses created through  
25                 the expenditure of Program grant funds—



1 (A) with respect to each minority-serving  
2 institution and historically Black college or uni-  
3 versity to which a grant was made under the  
4 Program; and

5 (B) in total under the Program;

6 (4) the number of student entrepreneurs re-  
7 ferred to resources of the Small Business Adminis-  
8 tration—

9 (A) at each minority-serving institution  
10 and historically Black college or university to  
11 which a grant was made under the Program;  
12 and

13 (B) in total under the Program;

14 (5) the number of student entrepreneurs par-  
15 ticipating in programs created or expanded through  
16 the expenditure of Program grant funds at each mi-  
17 nority-serving institution and historically Black col-  
18 lege or university to which a grant was made under  
19 the Program, and in total under the Program,  
20 which, to the extent possible, shall be disaggregated  
21 by sex, race, and ethnicity; and

22 (6) a statement regarding whether any amounts  
23 made available to carry out this section remain un-  
24 expended, as of the date on which the report is sub-  
25 mitted.

1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator  
3 \$50,000,000 to carry out this section.

4 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY BOARD.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall es-  
7 tablish a Minority Entrepreneurship Advisory Board to  
8 develop recommendations regarding how minority-serving  
9 institutions and historically Black colleges and universities  
10 can better serve minority businesses and entrepreneurs.

11 (b) MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD.—The members of the  
12 Board shall be—

13 (1) appointed by the Administrator; and

14 (2) individuals with—

15 (A) outstanding qualifications;

16 (B) knowledge regarding the needs of  
17 small business concerns that are owned by mi-  
18 norities; and

19 (C) experience—

20 (i) working with startups; or

21 (ii) in providing consultation to small  
22 business concerns.

23 (c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18  
24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-

1 administrator shall submit to Congress the recommendations  
2 developed by the Board under subsection (a).

3 (d) INAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-  
4 MITTEE REQUIREMENTS.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United  
5 States Code, shall not apply with respect to the Board or  
6 the activities of the Board.

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