

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3528

To amend the Small Business Act to establish the position of Coordinator for Disabled Small Business Concerns within the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 14, 2023

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

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to establish the position of Coordinator for Disabled Small Business Concerns within the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights 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 “Supporting Disabled
5 Entrepreneurs Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COORDINATOR FOR DISABLED SMALL BUSINESS**

2 **CONCERNS.**

3 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 49 (15 U.S.C. 631
6 note) as section 50; and

7 (2) by inserting after section 48 (15 U.S.C.
8 657u) the following:

9 **“SEC. 49. ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED SMALL BUSINESS**

10 **CONCERNS.**

11 **“(a) COORDINATOR FOR DISABLED SMALL BUSINESS**
12 **CONCERNS.—**

13 **“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—**There is established
14 within the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil
15 Rights of the Administration the position of Coordi-
16 nator for Disabled Small Business Concerns (re-
17 ferred to in this section as the ‘Coordinator’), the
18 occupant of which shall be responsible for the plan-
19 ning, coordination, implementation, evaluation, and
20 improvement of the efforts of the Administrator to
21 enhance support for disabled small business concerns
22 across capital, counseling, and contracting programs.

23 **“(2) COORDINATOR.—**

24 **“(A) DESIGNATION.—**Not later than 180
25 days after the date of enactment of the Sup-
26 porting Disabled Entrepreneurs Act, the Ad-

1 administrator shall designate to serve as Coordi-
2 nator an individual who—

3 “(i) may be, as of the date of that
4 designation, an employee of the Adminis-
5 tration; and

6 “(ii) has—

7 “(I) demonstrated experience
8 working with and knowledge of dis-
9 abled small business concerns; and

10 “(II) experience providing access
11 to capital, contracting opportunities,
12 or counseling to disabled small busi-
13 ness concerns.

14 “(B) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall—

15 “(i) create and implement strategies
16 and programs that support the activities,
17 development, and growth of disabled small
18 business concerns;

19 “(ii) facilitate outreach to disabled
20 small business concerns through the enti-
21 ties described in clauses (i) through (iii) of
22 subparagraph (C);

23 “(iii) develop technical support and
24 training programs for disabled small busi-
25 ness concerns that the entities described in

1 clauses (i) through (iii) of subparagraph
2 (C) may use when conducting the outreach
3 described in clause (ii) of this subpara-
4 graph;

5 “(iv) establish partnerships within the
6 Administration and with relevant Federal
7 agencies to advance the goal of supporting
8 the economic success of disabled small
9 business concerns;

10 “(v) review the effectiveness and im-
11 pact of Administration programs for dis-
12 abled small business concerns;

13 “(vi) when appropriate, advocate on
14 behalf of disabled small business concerns
15 within the Administration;

16 “(vii) not less frequently than once
17 every 6 months beginning 1 year after the
18 date of enactment of the Supporting Dis-
19 abled Entrepreneurs Act, hold public meet-
20 ings with relevant stakeholders to assess
21 the effectiveness of the strategies and pro-
22 grams of the Administration designed to
23 support disabled small business concerns
24 and any gaps in those programs of the Ad-
25 ministration; and

1 “(viii) not later than 2 years after the
2 date of enactment of the Supporting Dis-
3 abled Entrepreneurs Act, submit to Con-
4 gress a report that describes the major ac-
5 tivities of the Coordinator, contains rec-
6 ommendations for congressional action to
7 further support disabled small business
8 concerns, and addresses the potential for
9 growth within the areas in which the Coor-
10 dinator operates.

11 “(C) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the
12 duties under this paragraph, the Coordinator
13 shall consult with—

14 “(i) district offices of the Administra-
15 tion;

16 “(ii) regional offices of the Adminis-
17 tration;

18 “(iii) resource partners of the Admin-
19 istration, including small business develop-
20 ment centers, women’s business centers de-
21 scribed in section 29, chapters of the Serv-
22 ice Corps of Retired Executives described
23 in section 8(a)(1)(A), and Veteran Busi-
24 ness Outreach Centers described in section
25 32; and

1 “(iv) other relevant Federal agencies,
2 including the National Council on Dis-
3 ability, Department of Health and Human
4 Services, the Department of Justice, the
5 Department of Labor, the Department of
6 Veterans Affairs, the Department of Edu-
7 cation, the Social Security Administration,
8 the Access Board, and the Minority Busi-
9 ness Development Agency.

10 “(b) REPORTING.—To the extent possible, the Ad-
11 ministration shall publicly report, including in weekly re-
12 ports on lending approvals, data on services provided to
13 disabled small business concerns across programs of the
14 Administration.

15 “(c) DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 1 year after
16 the date of enactment of the Supporting Disabled Entre-
17 preneurs Act, the Administrator shall collect data across
18 programs of the Administration regarding the disability
19 status of small business concerns, on a voluntary basis,
20 through program intake forms.”.

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