

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4341

To require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2024

Ms. ERNST 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 plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, 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 “Plain Language in  
5 Contracting Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY IN COVERED NOTICES**  
7 **FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each covered notice shall be writ-  
9 ten—

1           (1) in a manner that is clear, concise, and ac-  
2           cessible to a small business concern; and

3           (2) in a manner consistent, to the extent prac-  
4           ticable, with the Federal plain language guidelines  
5           established pursuant to the Plain Writing Act of  
6           2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

7           (b) INCLUSION OF KEY WORDS IN COVERED NO-  
8           TICES.—Each covered notice shall, to the maximum extent  
9           practicable, include key words in the description of the  
10          covered notice such that a small business concern seeking  
11          contract opportunities using the single governmentwide  
12          point of entry described under section 1708 of title 41,  
13          United States Code, can easily identify and understand  
14          such covered notice.

15          (c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the  
16          date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of  
17          the Small Business Administration shall issue rules to  
18          carry out this section.

19          (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20               (1) COVERED NOTICE.—The term “covered no-  
21               tice” means a notice pertaining to small business  
22               concerns published by a Federal agency on the sin-  
23               gle governmentwide point of entry described under  
24               section 1708 of title 41, United States Code.

1           (2) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The  
2           terms “Federal agency” and “small business con-  
3           cern” have the meanings given those terms, respec-  
4           tively, in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15  
5           U.S.C. 632).

6 **SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.**

7           No additional amounts are authorized to be appro-  
8           priated to carry out this Act or the amendments made  
9           by this Act.

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