

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2734

To provide emergency assistance to non-farm small business concerns that have suffered substantial economic harm from the devastating effects of drought.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 16, 2002

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. JOHNSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To provide emergency assistance to non-farm small business concerns that have suffered substantial economic harm from the devastating effects of drought.

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. LOANS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS DAM-**
4 **AGED BY DROUGHT.**

5 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
6 “Small Business Drought Relief Act”.

7 (b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

1 (1) as of July 2002, more than 36 States (in-
2 cluding Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Lou-
3 isiana) have suffered from continuing drought condi-
4 tions;

5 (2) droughts have a negative effect on State
6 and regional economies;

7 (3) many small businesses in the United States
8 sell, distribute, market, or otherwise engage in com-
9 merce related to water and water sources, such as
10 lakes and streams;

11 (4) many small businesses in the United States
12 suffer economic injury from drought conditions,
13 leading to revenue losses, job layoffs, and bank-
14 ruptcies;

15 (5) these small businesses need access to low-
16 interest loans for business-related purposes, includ-
17 ing paying their bills and making payroll until busi-
18 ness returns to normal;

19 (6) absent a legislative change, only agriculture-
20 related businesses are eligible for Federal disaster
21 loan assistance as a result of drought conditions;
22 and

23 (7) it is necessary to amend the Small Business
24 Act to allow non-farm small businesses that have
25 suffered economic injury from drought to receive fi-

1 nancial assistance through Small Business Adminis-
2 tration Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

3 (c) EXPANSION OF DISASTER DEFINITION.—Section
4 3(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(k)) is
5 amended by inserting “drought,” after “windstorms,”.

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