

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1772

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 25, 2003

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship

AN ACT

To improve small business advocacy, 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 “Small Business Advo-
3 cacy Improvement Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Excessive regulations continue to burden
7 the Nation’s small businesses.

8 (2) Federal agencies continue to propose regu-
9 lations that impose disproportionate burdens on
10 small businesses.

11 (3) An independent office of small business ad-
12 vocacy will help to ensure that Federal agencies are
13 responsive to small businesses and that those agen-
14 cies comply with their statutory obligations with re-
15 spect to small businesses.

16 (4) The independence of an office that acts as
17 an advocate for small businesses is essential to en-
18 sure that it can serve as an effective advocate with-
19 out being restricted by the views or policies of the
20 Small Business Administration or any other Federal
21 executive branch agency.

22 (5) To be effective an office that acts as an ad-
23 vocate for small businesses needs sufficient resources
24 to conduct creditable economic studies and research
25 which are necessary for the maintenance of small
26 business databases and for the accurate assessment

1 of the impact of regulations on small businesses, the
2 role of small business in the Nation's economy, and
3 the barriers to the growth of small businesses.

4 (6) The research, information, and expertise
5 provided by an independent office of small business
6 advocacy will be a valuable source of information
7 and advice for Congress and Federal agencies with
8 which the office will work on behalf of small busi-
9 nesses.

10 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

11 (1) to ensure that there exists an entity that
12 has the statutory independence and adequate finan-
13 cial resources to effectively advocate for and on be-
14 half of small business;

15 (2) to require that such an entity report to the
16 Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committee
17 on Small Business of the House of Representatives
18 and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
19 neurship of the Senate, and to the Administrator of
20 the Small Business Administration in order to keep
21 them fully and currently informed about issues and
22 regulations affecting small business concerns and the
23 necessity for corrective action by the regulatory
24 agency or Congress;

1 (3) to provide a separate authorization for ap-
2 propriations for such an entity; and

3 (4) to strengthen the role of the Small Business
4 and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombuds-
5 man by ensuring continued cooperation between the
6 Ombudsman and the Office of Advocacy of the
7 Small Business Administration.

8 **SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF COUNSEL OF ADVOCACY.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of Public Law 94–
10 305 (15 U.S.C. 634a) is amended—

11 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “There is estab-
12 lished”;

13 (2) by striking the second sentence; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(b) The management of the Office shall be vested
16 in a Chief Counsel for Advocacy who shall be appointed
17 from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice
18 and consent of the Senate, and who should be appointed
19 without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of
20 fitness to perform the duties of the office.

21 “(c) No individual may be appointed under sub-
22 section (b) if such individual has served as an officer or
23 employee of the Small Business Administration during the
24 5-year period preceding the date of such individual’s ap-
25 pointment.

1 “(d) An individual serving as Chief Counsel on the
2 date of the expiration of any term of the President may
3 not continue to serve as Chief Counsel for more than 1
4 year after such date unless such individual is reappointed
5 after such date by the President, by and with the advice
6 and consent of the Senate. The preceding sentence shall
7 not apply in the case of the expiration of a term of an
8 individual holding the office of President if such individual
9 is elected to the office of President for a term successive
10 to such term.”.

11 (b) INCUMBENT CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY.—
12 The individual serving as the Chief Counsel for Advocacy
13 of the Small Business Administration on the date of the
14 enactment of this Act shall continue to serve in that posi-
15 tion after such date in accordance with section 201 of
16 Public Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634a), as amended by this
17 section.

18 **SEC. 4. PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE OF ADVOCACY.**

19 Section 202 of Public Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634b)
20 is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (6) by striking “to minority
22 enterprises” and inserting “to small business con-
23 cerns owned and controlled by socially and economi-
24 cally disadvantaged individuals, to small business
25 concerns owned and controlled by women, and to

1 small business concerns owned and controlled by vet-
2 erans”;

3 (2) in paragraph (7) by striking “minority en-
4 terprises” and inserting “small business concerns
5 owned and controlled by socially and economically
6 disadvantaged individuals, small business concerns
7 owned and controlled by women, and small business
8 concerns owned and controlled by veterans”;

9 (3) in paragraph (8) by striking “minority and
10 other small business enterprises” and inserting
11 “small business concerns owned and controlled by
12 socially and economically disadvantaged individuals,
13 small business concerns owned and controlled by
14 women, small business concerns owned and con-
15 trolled by veterans, and other small businesses”;

16 (4) in paragraph (9) by striking “complete”
17 and inserting “compete”;

18 (5) by striking paragraph (11);

19 (6) by redesignating paragraph (12) as para-
20 graph (11);

21 (7) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated)—

22 (A) by striking “serviced-disabled” and in-
23 serting “service-disabled”; and

24 (B) by striking the period at the end and
25 inserting “; and”; and

1 (8) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(12) make such recommendations and submit
3 such reports as the Chief Counsel determines appro-
4 priate to the President, to the Chairmen and Rank-
5 ing Members of the Committee on Small Business of
6 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
7 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate,
8 and to the Administrator of the Small Business Ad-
9 ministration, with respect to issues and regulations
10 affecting small businesses and the necessity for cor-
11 rective action by any Federal agency or by Con-
12 gress.”.

13 **SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of Public Law 94–
15 305 (15 U.S.C. 634c) is amended—

16 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “The Office of Ad-
17 vocacy shall also perform”; and

18 (2) in subsection (a) (as so designated)—

19 (A) in paragraph (4) by striking “and” at
20 the end;

21 (B) in paragraph (5) by striking the period
22 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(6) maintain economic databases and make
25 the information contained therein available to the

1 Administrator of the Small Business Administration
2 and to Congress;

3 “(7) carry out the responsibilities of the Chief
4 Counsel under chapter 6 of title 5, United States
5 Code; and

6 “(8) maintain a memorandum of understanding
7 with the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory
8 Enforcement Ombudsman regarding methods and
9 procedures for cooperation between the Ombudsman
10 and the Office of Advocacy and transmit a copy of
11 such memorandum to the Committee on Small Busi-
12 ness of the House of Representatives and the Com-
13 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
14 the Senate.”.

15 (b) APPROPRIATION REQUEST.—Section 203 of Pub-
16 lic Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634c) is further amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

18 “(b)(1) For each fiscal year, the Chief Counsel shall
19 transmit the Office of Advocacy’s appropriation estimate
20 and request to the Office of Management and Budget, the
21 Committee on Small Business of the House of Representa-
22 tives, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
23 neurship of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropria-
24 tions of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

1 “(2) Each budget of the United States Government
 2 submitted by the President shall include a separate state-
 3 ment of the amount of appropriations requested for the
 4 Office of Advocacy.”.

5 “(3) Each such budget shall also include a statement
 6 indicating whether the proportion of the funds requested
 7 for the Office of Advocacy when compared to the funds
 8 requested for the Small Business Administration has in-
 9 creased, decreased, or stayed the same relative to the pro-
 10 portion of the amount appropriated for the Office of Advoc-
 11 acy for the previous fiscal year when compared to the
 12 amount appropriated for the Small Business Administra-
 13 tion for the previous fiscal year.”.

14 **SEC. 6. PRINCIPAL DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL AND RE-**
 15 **GIONAL ADVOCATES.**

16 Section 204 of Public Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634d)
 17 is amended—

18 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “In carrying out”;

19 and

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

21 “(b)(1) The Chief Counsel may appoint 1 individual
 22 to serve as Principal Deputy Chief Counsel.

23 “(2) The Principal Deputy Chief Counsel shall be
 24 paid at an annual rate not less than the minimum rate,
 25 nor more than the maximum rate, for the Senior Execu-

1 tive Service under chapter 53 of title 5, United States
2 Code.

3 “(3) An individual appointed to a position under this
4 subsection shall not be counted toward the limitation con-
5 tained in subsection (a)(1) regarding the number of indi-
6 viduals who may be compensated at a rate in excess of
7 the lowest rate for GS–15 of the General Schedule.

8 “(c) The Chief Counsel may appoint regional advo-
9 cates within each Standard Federal Region as appro-
10 priate. Such regional advocates shall—

11 “(1) assist in examining the role of small busi-
12 ness in the economy of the United States by identi-
13 fying academic and other research institutions that
14 focus on small business concerns and linking these
15 research resources to research activities conducted
16 by the Office of Advocacy;

17 “(2) assist in representing the views and inter-
18 ests of small business concerns before Federal agen-
19 cies whose policies and activities may affect small
20 business;

21 “(3) assist the functioning of regional small
22 business fairness boards in coordination with the
23 Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforce-
24 ment Ombudsman;

1 “(4) assist in enlisting the cooperation and as-
2 sistance of public and private agencies, businesses,
3 and other organizations in disseminating information
4 about the programs and services provided by the
5 Federal Government that are of benefit to small
6 business concerns and the means by which small
7 business concerns can participate in or make use of
8 such programs and services; and

9 “(5) carry out such duties pursuant to the mis-
10 sion of the Office of Advocacy as the Chief Counsel
11 may assign.”.

12 **SEC. 7. OVERHEAD AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**

13 Section 205 of Public Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634e)
14 is amended by inserting before “Each department” the
15 following:

16 “(a) The Administrator of the Small Business Ad-
17 ministration shall provide the Office of Advocacy with ap-
18 propriate and adequate office space at central and field
19 office locations of the Administration, together with such
20 equipment, office supplies, communications facilities, and
21 personnel and maintenance services as may be necessary
22 for the operation of such offices.

23 “(b)”.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

2 Section 206 of Public Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634f)
3 is amended by striking “The Chief Counsel may” and all
4 that follows through “on his activities.” and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(a) Not less than annually, the Chief Counsel shall
7 submit to the President, the Committee on Small Business
8 of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Small
9 Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Com-
10 mittee on Government Affairs of the Senate, the Com-
11 mittee on Government Reform of the House of Represent-
12 atives, and the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate
13 and the House of Representatives, and the Administrator
14 of the Small Business Administration a report on agency
15 compliance with chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code.

16 “(b) In addition to the reports required by this title,
17 the Chief Counsel may prepare and publish such other re-
18 ports as the Chief Counsel determines appropriate.

19 “(c)”.

20 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 Section 207 of Public Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634g)
22 is amended by striking “not to exceed \$1,000,000” and
23 inserting “\$10,000,000 for fiscal years 2003 and 2004,
24 \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, and \$14,000,000 for fis-
25 cal year 2006”.

1 **SEC. 10. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) RURAL TOURISM TRAINING PROGRAM.—Section
3 311 of the Small Business Administration Reauthorization
4 and Amendments Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 653 note; 104
5 Stat. 2832) is amended by striking “Chief Counsel for Ad-
6 vocacy” and inserting “Administrator”.

7 (b) SMALL BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE REGU-
8 LATORY ENFORCEMENT OMBUDSMAN.—Section 30(b)(2)
9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657(b)(2)) is
10 amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
12 the end;

13 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period
14 and inserting “; and”; and

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

16 “(F) maintain a memorandum of under-
17 standing with the Office of Advocacy regarding
18 methods and procedures for cooperation be-
19 tween the Ombudsman and the Office of Advoca-
20 cacy.”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 24, 2003.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.