

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3508

To strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2012

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

A BILL

To strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the
SCORE program, 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 “SCORE for Small
5 Business Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. SCORE REAUTHORIZATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 20 of the Small Business
8 Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-
10 section (f); and

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

2 “(g) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be
3 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the
4 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums
5 as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or
6 enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that
7 does not exceed—

8 “(1) \$13,000,000 in fiscal year 2013;

9 “(2) \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2014; and

10 “(3) \$17,000,000 in fiscal year 2015.”.

11 **SEC. 3. SCORE PROGRAM.**

12 Section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637)
13 is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “ a
15 Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)” and
16 inserting “the SCORE program described in sub-
17 section (c)”; and

18 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(c) SCORE PROGRAM.—

21 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
22 ‘SCORE program’ means the SCORE program au-
23 thorized by subsection (b)(1)(B).

24 “(2) VOLUNTEERS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A volunteer partici-
2 pating in the SCORE program shall—

3 “(i) based on the business experience
4 and knowledge of the volunteer—

5 “(I) provide at no cost to individ-
6 uals who own, or aspire to own, small
7 business concerns personal counseling,
8 mentoring, and coaching relating to
9 the process of starting, expanding,
10 managing, buying, and selling a busi-
11 ness; and

12 “(II) facilitate low-cost education
13 workshops for individuals who own, or
14 aspire to own, small business con-
15 cerns; and

16 “(ii) as appropriate, use tools, re-
17 sources, and expertise of other organiza-
18 tions to carry out the SCORE program.

19 “(B) ORIENTATION.—The Administrator,
20 in consultation with the SCORE Association,
21 shall ensure that each volunteer participating in
22 the SCORE program is adequately oriented and
23 trained in the areas and disciplines necessary to
24 ensure successful, outcome-oriented client inter-

1 actions relating to the services provided by the
2 SCORE program.

3 “(3) PLANS AND GOALS.—

4 “(A) OUTREACH.—The Administrator, in
5 consultation with the SCORE Association, shall
6 ensure that the SCORE program and each
7 chapter of the SCORE program develop and
8 implement plans and goals for outreach to indi-
9 viduals in rural, ethnically diverse, minority,
10 and underserved communities, including a plan
11 to recruit more diverse counselors.

12 “(B) SERVICE.—The Administrator, in
13 consultation with the SCORE Association, shall
14 ensure that the SCORE program and each
15 chapter of the SCORE program develop and
16 implement plans and goals to more effectively
17 and efficiently provide services to individuals in
18 rural areas, economically disadvantaged com-
19 munities, and other traditionally underserved
20 communities, including plans for electronic ini-
21 tiatives, web-based initiatives, chapter expan-
22 sion, partnerships, and the development of new
23 skills by volunteers participating in the SCORE
24 program.

1 “(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—The SCORE Associa-
2 tion shall submit to the Administrator an annual re-
3 port that contains—

4 “(A) the number of individuals counseled
5 or trained under the SCORE program;

6 “(B) the number of hours of counseling
7 provided under the SCORE program; and

8 “(C) to the extent possible—

9 “(i) the number of small business con-
10 cerns formed with assistance from the
11 SCORE program;

12 “(ii) the number of small business
13 concerns expanded with assistance from
14 the SCORE program; and

15 “(iii) the number of jobs created with
16 assistance from the SCORE program.

17 “(5) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Adminis-
19 trator nor the SCORE Association may disclose
20 the name, address, or telephone number of any
21 individual or small business concern receiving
22 assistance from the SCORE Association with-
23 out the consent of such individual or small busi-
24 ness concern, unless—

1 “(i) the Administrator is ordered to
 2 make such a disclosure by a court in any
 3 civil or criminal enforcement action initi-
 4 ated by a Federal or State agency; or

5 “(ii) the Administrator determines
 6 such a disclosure to be necessary for the
 7 purpose of conducting a financial audit of
 8 the SCORE program, in which case disclo-
 9 sure shall be limited to the information
 10 necessary for the audit.

11 “(B) ADMINISTRATOR USE OF INFORMA-
 12 TION.—This subsection shall not—

13 “(i) restrict the access of the Adminis-
 14 trator to program activity data; or

15 “(ii) prevent the Administrator from
 16 using client information to conduct client
 17 surveys.

18 “(C) REGULATIONS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
 20 shall issue regulations to establish stand-
 21 ards for—

22 “(I) disclosures with respect to
 23 financial audits under paragraph
 24 (1)(B); and

1 “(II) conducting client surveys,
 2 including standards for oversight of
 3 the surveys and for dissemination and
 4 use of client information.

5 “(ii) MAXIMUM PRIVACY PROTEC-
 6 TION.—The regulations issued under this
 7 paragraph shall, to the extent practicable,
 8 provide for the maximum amount of pri-
 9 vacy protection.

10 “(iii) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Until
 11 the effective date of the regulations issued
 12 under this paragraph, any client survey
 13 and the use of any client information shall
 14 be approved by the Inspector General of
 15 the Administration, who shall include any
 16 such approval in the semi-annual report of
 17 the Inspector General.”.

18 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

19 (a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act
 20 (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

21 (1) in section 7(m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII) (15 U.S.C.
 22 636(m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII)), by striking “Service Corps
 23 of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE pro-
 24 gram”; and

1 (2) in section 33(b)(2) (15 U.S.C. 657c(b)(2)),
2 by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives”
3 and inserting “SCORE program”.

4 (b) OTHER LAWS.—Section 621 of the Children’s
5 Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009
6 (15 U.S.C. 657p) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4)
8 and inserting the following:

9 “(4) the term ‘SCORE program’ means the
10 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1)(B)
11 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
12 637(b)(1)(B));”; and

13 (2) in subsection (b)(4)(A)(iv), by striking
14 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting
15 “SCORE program”.

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