

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2619

To require the Secretary of Commerce to carry out a pilot program on the award of financial assistance to local governments to support the development of startup businesses, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 2016

Ms. HEITKAMP introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce to carry out a pilot program on the award of financial assistance to local governments to support the development of startup businesses, 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 “Startup Entrepreneur  
5       Empowerment Delivery Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON AWARDING FINANCIAL ASSIST-**  
2 **ANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT**  
3 **DEVELOPMENT OF STARTUP BUSINESSES.**

4 (a) **PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—Commencing not  
5 later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of  
6 this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall carry out a pilot  
7 program to assess the feasibility and advisability of award-  
8 ing financial assistance, on a competitive basis, to local  
9 governments described in subsection (b) to support the de-  
10 velopment of startup businesses described in subsection  
11 (c).

12 (b) **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DESCRIBED.**—A local gov-  
13 ernment described in this subsection—

14 (1) is a political subdivision of a State that is  
15 eligible to participate in the Experimental Program  
16 to Stimulate Competitive Research (known as  
17 “EPSCoR”) of the National Science Foundation;  
18 and

19 (2) represents a population of not more than  
20 200,000.

21 (c) **STARTUP BUSINESSES DESCRIBED.**—A startup  
22 business described in this subsection is a business that—

23 (1) is under the jurisdiction of a local govern-  
24 ment described in subsection (b);

25 (2) has fewer than 5 full-time equivalent em-  
26 ployees; and

1           (3) intends, as determined by the local govern-  
2           ment described in paragraph (1), to produce a tech-  
3           nology or product that may result in intellectual  
4           property vesting in an entity of the United States  
5           that can commercialize the technology in a timely  
6           manner.

7           (d) DURATION.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
9           out the pilot program during the 1-year period be-  
10          ginning on the date of the commencement of the  
11          pilot program.

12          (2) COMPLETION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Sec-  
13          retary shall ensure that any project funded by a fi-  
14          nancial assistance awarded under the pilot program  
15          is completed before the date that is 1 year after the  
16          date of the commencement of the pilot program.

17          (e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERN-  
18          MENTS.—

19          (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
20          out the pilot program through the award of financial  
21          assistance to local governments described in sub-  
22          section (b).

23          (2) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Under paragraph  
24          (1), the Secretary may award financial assistance

1 under the pilot program to not more than 10 local  
2 governments described in subsection (b).

3 (3) AMOUNTS.—Each award of financial assist-  
4 ance under paragraph (1) shall be for not more than  
5 \$120,000.

6 (4) APPLICATION.—A local government seeking  
7 financial assistance under paragraph (1) shall sub-  
8 mit to the Secretary an application therefor at such  
9 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
10 tion as the Secretary may require.

11 (5) USE OF FUNDS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AS-  
12 SISTANCE TO STARTUP BUSINESSES.—A local gov-  
13 ernment receiving an award under paragraph (1)  
14 shall use the amount of the award to provide finan-  
15 cial assistance to one or more startup businesses de-  
16 scribed in subsection (c) that are under the jurisdic-  
17 tion of the local government.

18 (f) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STARTUP BUSI-  
19 NESSES.—Each local government that receives a grant  
20 under paragraph (1) of subsection (e) shall ensure that  
21 financial assistance provided under paragraph (5) of such  
22 subsection is used by the recipient of the financial assist-  
23 ance to assist with direct costs related to successfully  
24 growing a business, which may include—

1           (1) costs for facilities, including the construc-  
2           tion, repair, or renovation;

3           (2) costs relating to acquiring or implementing  
4           technology; or

5           (3) costs of human capital.

6           (g) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the com-  
7           pletion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit  
8           to Congress a report on the pilot program and the findings  
9           of the Secretary with respect to the feasibility and advis-  
10          ability of awarding grants as described in subsection (a).

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