

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2846

To amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2016

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small 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 “Small Business Inno-
5 vation Protection Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
9 ministrator of the SBA;

1 (2) the term “Director” means the Under Sec-
2 retary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
3 Director of the USPTO;

4 (3) the term “SBA” means the Small Business
5 Administration;

6 (4) the term “small business concern” has the
7 meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Small
8 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a));

9 (5) the term “small business development cen-
10 ter” means a center described in section 21 of the
11 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648); and

12 (6) the term “USPTO” means the United
13 States Patent and Trademark Office.

14 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

15 Congress finds that—

16 (1) the USPTO and the SBA are positioned
17 to—

18 (A) build upon several successful intellec-
19 tual property and training programs aimed at
20 small business concerns; and

21 (B) increase the availability of and the
22 participation in those programs across the
23 United States; and

24 (2) any education and training program admin-
25 istered by the USPTO and the SBA should be scal-

1 able so that the program is able to reach more small
2 business concerns.

3 **SEC. 4. SBA AND USPTO PARTNERSHIPS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 180
5 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
6 trator, in consultation with the Director, shall develop
7 partnership agreements that—

8 (1) provide for the—

9 (A) development of high-quality training,
10 including in-person or modular training ses-
11 sions, for small business concerns relating to
12 domestic and international protection of intel-
13 lectual property;

14 (B) leveraging of training materials al-
15 ready developed for the education of inventors
16 and small business concerns; and

17 (C) participation of a nongovernmental or-
18 ganization; and

19 (2) provide training—

20 (A) through electronic resources, including
21 Internet-based webinars; and

22 (B) at physical locations, including—

23 (i) a small business development cen-
24 ter; and

1 (ii) the headquarters or a regional of-
 2 fice of the USPTO.

3 **SEC. 5. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

4 Section 21(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15
 5 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (S), by striking “and” at
 7 the end;

8 (2) in subparagraph (T), by striking the period
 9 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

11 “(U) in conjunction with the United States
 12 Patent and Trademark Office, providing train-
 13 ing—

14 “(i) to small business concerns relat-
 15 ing to—

16 “(I) domestic and international
 17 intellectual property protections; and

18 “(II) how those protections
 19 should be considered in the business
 20 plans and growth strategies of the
 21 small business concerns; and

22 “(ii) which may be delivered—

23 “(I) in person; or

24 “(II) through a website.”.

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