

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2855

To increase outreach for women and minority-owned businesses under the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2016

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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## A BILL

To increase outreach for women and minority-owned businesses under the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, 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 Research and Technology Transfer Inclusive Out-  
6 reach Improvement Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. SBA COORDINATION ON INCREASING OUTREACH**  
2 **FOR WOMEN AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSI-**  
3 **NESSES.**

4 Section 9(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
5 638(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the  
7 end;

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

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

11 “(10) to coordinate with participating agencies  
12 on efforts to increase outreach and awards under  
13 each of the SBIR and STTR programs to small  
14 business concerns owned and controlled by women  
15 and socially and economically disadvantaged small  
16 business concerns, as defined in section 8(a)(4).”.

17 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY OUTREACH REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
18 **WOMEN AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES.**

19 Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)  
20 is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (g)—

22 (A) in paragraph (11), by striking “and”  
23 at the end;

24 (B) in paragraph (12), by striking the pe-  
25 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

1           “(13) implement an outreach program to small  
2 business concerns for the purpose of enhancing its  
3 SBIR program, under which the Federal agency  
4 shall—

5           “(A) provide outreach to small business  
6 concerns owned and controlled by women and  
7 socially and economically disadvantaged small  
8 business concerns, as defined in section 8(a)(4);  
9 and

10           “(B) establish goals for outreach by the  
11 Federal agency to the small business concerns  
12 described in subparagraph (A).”; and

13           (2) in subsection (o)(14), by striking “SBIR  
14 program;” and inserting “SBIR program, under  
15 which the Federal agency shall—

16           “(A) provide outreach to small business  
17 concerns owned and controlled by women and  
18 socially and economically disadvantaged small  
19 business concerns, as defined in section 8(a)(4);  
20 and

21           “(B) establish goals for outreach by the  
22 Federal agency to the small business concerns  
23 described in subparagraph (A).”.

1 **SEC. 4. STTR POLICY DIRECTIVE MODIFICATION.**

2 Section 9(p) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
3 638(p)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) **ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS.**—Not later  
5 than 120 days after the date of enactment of this  
6 paragraph, the Administrator shall modify the policy  
7 directive issued pursuant to this subsection to pro-  
8 vide for enhanced outreach efforts to increase the  
9 participation of small business concerns owned and  
10 controlled by women and socially and economically  
11 disadvantaged small business concerns, as defined in  
12 section 8(a)(4), in technological innovation and in  
13 STTR programs.”.

14 **SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY SBIR/STTR POLICY COMMITTEE.**

15 Section 5124 of the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act  
16 of 2011 (Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1837) is amend-  
17 ed—

18 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
19 section (e); and

20 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 “(d) **MEETINGS.**—

23 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Interagency SBIR/  
24 STTR Policy Committee shall meet not less than  
25 twice per year to carry out the duties under sub-  
26 section (c).

1           “(2) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
2           ACTIVITIES.—If the Interagency SBIR/STTR Policy  
3           Committee meets to discuss outreach and technical  
4           assistance activities to increase the participation of  
5           small business concerns that are underrepresented in  
6           the SBIR and STTR programs, the Committee shall  
7           invite to the meeting—

8                   “(A) a representative of the Minority Busi-  
9                   ness Development Agency; and

10                   “(B) relevant stakeholders that work to  
11                   advance the interests of—

12                           “(i) small business concerns owned  
13                           and controlled by women, as defined in  
14                           section 3 of the Small Business Act (15  
15                           U.S.C. 632); and

16                           “(ii) socially and economically dis-  
17                           advantaged small business concerns, as de-  
18                           fined in section 8(a)(4) of the Small Busi-  
19                           ness Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(4)).”.

20 **SEC. 6. DIVERSITY AND STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
21 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

23 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
24 ministrator of the Small Business Administration;

1           (2) the term “covered STEM intern” means a  
2 student at, or recent graduate from, an institution  
3 of higher education serving as an intern—

4           (A) whose course of study studied is fo-  
5 cused on the STEM fields; and

6           (B) who is a woman or a person from an  
7 underrepresented population in the STEM  
8 fields;

9           (3) the term “eligible entity” means a small  
10 business concern that—

11           (A) is receiving amounts under an award  
12 under the SBIR program or the STTR program  
13 of a Federal agency on the date on which the  
14 Federal agency awards a grant to the small  
15 business concern under subsection (b); and

16           (B) provides internships for covered STEM  
17 interns;

18           (4) the terms “Federal agency”, “SBIR”, and  
19 “STTR” have the meanings given those terms under  
20 section 9(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
21 638(e));

22           (5) the term “institution of higher education”  
23 has the meaning given the term under section  
24 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
25 U.S.C. 1001(a));

1           (6) the term “person from an underrepresented  
2           population in the STEM fields” means a person  
3           from a group that is underrepresented in the popu-  
4           lation of STEM students, as determined by the Ad-  
5           ministrator;

6           (7) the term “pilot program” means the Diver-  
7           sity and STEM Workforce Development Pilot Pro-  
8           gram established under subsection (b);

9           (8) the term “recent graduate”, relating to a  
10          woman or a person from an underrepresented popu-  
11          lation in the STEM fields, means that the woman or  
12          person from an underrepresented population in the  
13          STEM fields earned an associate degree, bacca-  
14          laureate degree, or postbaccalaureate from an insti-  
15          tution of higher education during the 1-year period  
16          beginning on the date of the internship;

17          (9) the term “small business concern” has the  
18          meaning given the term under section 3 of the Small  
19          Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

20          (10) the term “STEM fields” means the fields  
21          of science, technology, engineering, and math.

22          (b) PILOT PROGRAM FOR INTERNSHIPS FOR WOMEN  
23          AND PEOPLE FROM UNDERREPRESENTED POPU-  
24          LATIONS.—The Administrator shall establish a Diversity  
25          and STEM Workforce Development Pilot Program to en-

1 courage the business community to provide workforce de-  
2 velopment opportunities for covered STEM interns, under  
3 which a Federal agency participating in the SBIR pro-  
4 gram or STTR program may make a grant to one or more  
5 eligible entities for the costs of internships for covered  
6 STEM interns.

7 (c) AMOUNT AND USE OF GRANTS.—

8 (1) AMOUNT.—A grant under subsection (b)—

9 (A) may not be in an amount of more than  
10 \$15,000 per fiscal year; and

11 (B) shall be in addition to the amount of  
12 the award to the recipient under the SBIR pro-  
13 gram or the STTR program.

14 (2) USE.—Not less than 90 percent of the  
15 amount of a grant under subsection (b) shall be  
16 used by the eligible entity to provide stipends or  
17 other similar payments to interns.

18 (d) EVALUATION.—Not later than January 31 of the  
19 first calendar year after the third fiscal year during which  
20 the Administrator carries out the pilot program, the Ad-  
21 ministrator shall submit to Congress—

22 (1) data on the results of the pilot program,  
23 such as the number and demographics of the covered  
24 STEM interns participating in an internship funded



1 under the pilot program and the amount spent on  
2 such internships; and

3 (2) an assessment of whether the pilot program  
4 helped the SBIR program and STTR program  
5 achieve the congressional objective of fostering and  
6 encouraging the participation of women and persons  
7 from underrepresented populations in the STEM  
8 fields.

9 (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-  
10 nate after the end of the fourth fiscal year during which  
11 the Administrator carries out the pilot program.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
14 necessary to carry out the pilot program.

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