

**Calendar No. 349**115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION**S. 1961**

To amend the Small Business Act to temporarily reauthorize certain pilot programs under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**

OCTOBER 16, 2017

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

MARCH 19, 2018

Reported by Mr. RISCH, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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**A BILL**

To amend the Small Business Act to temporarily reauthorize certain pilot programs under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “SBIR and STTR Over-  
3 sight and Pilot Program Extension Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. PILOT EXTENSIONS AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE;**  
5 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

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

8 (1) in subsection (cc), by striking “2017” and  
9 inserting “2018”;

10 (2) in subsection (gg)(7), by striking “2017”  
11 and inserting “2018”;

12 (3) in subsection (jj)(7), by striking “2017”  
13 and inserting “2018”;

14 (4) in subsection (mm)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
17 graph (A), by striking “2017” and insert-  
18 ing “2018”;

19 (ii) in subparagraph (I), by striking  
20 “and” at the end;

21 (iii) in subparagraph (J), by striking  
22 the period at the end and inserting “;  
23 and”;

24 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing:

1           “(K) funding for improvements that in-  
 2           crease commonality across data systems; reduce  
 3           redundancy; and improve data oversight and ac-  
 4           curacy.”; and

5           (B) by adding at the end the following:

6           “(7) SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS; FAST PRO-  
 7           GRAM.—

8           “(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the  
 9           term ‘covered Federal agency’ means a Federal  
 10          agency that—

11           “(i) is required to conduct an SBIR  
 12          program; and

13           “(ii) elects to use the funds allocated  
 14          to the SBIR program of the Federal agen-  
 15          cy for the purposes described in paragraph  
 16          (1).

17          “(B) REQUIREMENT.—Each covered Fed-  
 18          eral agency shall transfer an amount equal to  
 19          15 percent of the funds that are used for the  
 20          purposes described in paragraph (1) to the Ad-  
 21          ministration—

22           “(i) for the Regional SBIR State Col-  
 23          laborative Initiative Pilot Program estab-  
 24          lished under subsection (tt);

1           “(ii) for the Federal and State Tech-  
2           nology Partnership Program established  
3           under section 34; and

4           “(iii) to support the Office of the Ad-  
5           ministration that administers the SBIR  
6           program and the STTR program, subject  
7           to agreement from other agencies about  
8           how the funds will be used, in carrying out  
9           those programs and the programs de-  
10          scribed in clauses (i) and (ii).

11          “(8) PILOT PROGRAM.—

12           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of amounts provided  
13           to the Administration under paragraph (7), not  
14           less than \$5,000,000 shall be used to provide  
15           awards under the Regional SBIR State Collabo-  
16           rative Initiative Pilot Program established  
17           under subsection (tt) for each fiscal year in  
18           which the program is in effect.

19           “(B) DISBURSEMENT FLEXIBILITY.—The  
20           Administration may use any unused funds  
21           made available under subparagraph (A) as of  
22           April 1 of each fiscal year for awards to carry  
23           out clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (7)(B)  
24           after providing written notice to—

1           “(i) the Committee on Small Business  
2           and Entrepreneurship and the Committee  
3           on Appropriations of the Senate; and

4           “(ii) the Committee on Small Busi-  
5           ness and the Committee on Appropriations  
6           of the House of Representatives.”; and

7           (5) by adding at the end the following:

8           “(tt) REGIONAL SBIR STATE COLLABORATIVE INI-  
9           TIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM.—

10           “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

11           “(A) the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

12           “(i) a research institution; and

13           “(ii) a small business concern;

14           “(B) the term ‘eligible State’ means—

15           “(i) a State that the Administrator  
16           determines is in the bottom half of States,  
17           based on the average number of annual  
18           SBIR program awards made to companies  
19           in the State for the preceding 3 years for  
20           which the Administration has applicable  
21           data; and

22           “(ii) an EPSCoR State that—

23           “(I) is a State described in clause  
24           (i); or

25           “(II) is—

1                   “(aa) not a State described  
2                   in clause (i); and

3                   “(bb) invited to participate  
4                   in a regional collaborative;

5                   “(C) the term ‘EPSCoR State’ means a  
6                   State that participates in the Experimental  
7                   Program to Stimulate Competitive Research of  
8                   the National Science Foundation, as established  
9                   under section 113 of the National Science  
10                  Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42  
11                  U.S.C. 1862g);

12                  “(D) the term ‘FAST program’ means the  
13                  Federal and State Technology Partnership Pro-  
14                  gram established under section 34;

15                  “(E) the term ‘pilot program’ means the  
16                  Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative  
17                  Pilot Program established under paragraph (2);

18                  “(F) the term ‘regional collaborative’  
19                  means a collaborative consisting of eligible enti-  
20                  ties that are located in not less than 3 eligible  
21                  States; and

22                  “(G) the term ‘State’ means any State of  
23                  the United States, the District of Columbia, the  
24                  Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any terri-  
25                  tory or possession of the United States.

1           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator  
2 shall establish a pilot program, to be known as the  
3 Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot  
4 Program, under which the Administrator shall pro-  
5 vide awards to regional collaboratives to address the  
6 needs of small business concerns in order to—

7           “(A) be more competitive in the proposal  
8 and selection process for awards under the  
9 SBIR program and the STTR program; and

10           “(B) increase technology transfer and com-  
11 mercialization.

12           “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the pilot program  
13 are—

14           “(A) to create regional collaboratives that  
15 allow eligible entities to work cooperatively to  
16 leverage resources to address the needs of small  
17 business concerns;

18           “(B) to grow SBIR program and STTR  
19 program cooperative research and development  
20 and commercialization through increased  
21 awards under those programs;

22           “(C) to increase the participation of States  
23 that have historically received a lower level of  
24 awards under the SBIR program and the  
25 STTR program;

1           “(D) to utilize the strengths and advan-  
2           tages of regional collaboratives to better lever-  
3           age resources, best practices, and economies of  
4           scale in a region for the purpose of increasing  
5           awards and increasing the commercialization of  
6           the SBIR program and STTR projects;

7           “(E) to increase the competitiveness of the  
8           SBIR program and the STTR program;

9           “(F) to identify sources of outside funding  
10          for applicants for an award under the SBIR  
11          program or the STTR program, including ven-  
12          ture capitalists, angel investor groups, private  
13          industry, crowd funding, and special loan pro-  
14          grams; and

15          “(G) to offer increased one-on-one engage-  
16          ments with companies and entrepreneurs for  
17          SBIR program and STTR program education,  
18          assistance, and successful outcomes.

19          “(4) APPLICATION.—

20                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A regional collabo-  
21                 rative that desires to participate in the pilot  
22                 program shall submit to the Administrator an  
23                 application at such time, in such manner, and  
24                 containing such information as the Adminis-  
25                 trator may require.



1           “(B) INCLUSION OF LEAD ELIGIBLE ENTI-  
 2 THES AND COORDINATOR.—A regional collabo-  
 3 rative shall include in an application submitted  
 4 under subparagraph (A)—

5           “(i) the name of each lead eligible en-  
 6 tity from each eligible State in the regional  
 7 collaborative; as designated under para-  
 8 graph (5)(A); and

9           “(ii) the name of the coordinator for  
 10 the regional collaborative; as designated  
 11 under paragraph (6).

12           “(C) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—A re-  
 13 gional collaborative shall include in an applica-  
 14 tion submitted under subparagraph (A) an ex-  
 15 planation regarding how the activities of the re-  
 16 gional collaborative under the pilot program  
 17 would differ from other State and Federal out-  
 18 reach activities in each eligible State in the re-  
 19 gional collaborative.

20           “(5) LEAD ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

21           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible State in  
 22 a regional collaborative shall designate 1 eligible  
 23 entity located in the eligible State to serve as  
 24 the lead eligible entity for the eligible State.

1           “(B) AUTHORIZATION BY GOVERNOR.—

2           Each lead eligible entity designated under sub-  
3           paragraph (A) shall be authorized to act as the  
4           lead eligible entity by the Governor of the appli-  
5           eable eligible State.

6           “(C) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each lead eligi-  
7           ble entity designated under subparagraph (A)  
8           shall be responsible for administering the activi-  
9           ties and program initiatives described in para-  
10          graph (7) in the applicable eligible State.

11          “(6) REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE COORDI-  
12          NATOR.—Each regional collaborative shall designate  
13          a coordinator from amongst the eligible entities lo-  
14          cated in the eligible States in the regional collabo-  
15          rative, who shall serve as the interface between the  
16          regional collaborative and the Administration with  
17          respect to measuring cross-State collaboration and  
18          program effectiveness and documenting best prac-  
19          tices.

20          “(7) USE OF FUNDS.—Each regional collabo-  
21          rative that is provided an award under the pilot pro-  
22          gram may, in each eligible State in which an eligible  
23          entity of the regional collaborative is located—

24                  “(A) establish an initiative under which  
25                  first-time applicants for an award under the

1 SBIR program or the STTR program are re-  
2 viewed by experienced, national experts in the  
3 United States, as determined by the lead eligi-  
4 ble entity designated under paragraph (5)(A);

5 “(B) engage national mentors on a fre-  
6 quent basis to work directly with applicants for  
7 an award under the SBIR program or the  
8 STTR program, particularly during Phase II,  
9 to assist with the process of preparing and sub-  
10 mitting a proposal;

11 “(C) create and make available an online  
12 mechanism to serve as a resource for applicants  
13 for an award under the SBIR program or the  
14 STTR program to identify and connect with  
15 Federal labs, prime government contractor com-  
16 panies, other industry partners, and regional in-  
17 dustry cluster organizations;

18 “(D) conduct focused and concentrated  
19 outreach efforts to increase participation in the  
20 SBIR program and the STTR program by  
21 small business concerns owned and controlled  
22 by women, small business concerns owned and  
23 controlled by veterans, small business concerns  
24 owned and controlled by socially and economi-  
25 cally disadvantaged individuals (as defined in

1 section 8(d)(3)(C)), and historically Black col-  
2 leges and universities;

3 “(E) administer a structured program of  
4 training and technical assistance—

5 “(i) to prepare applicants for an  
6 award under the SBIR program or the  
7 STTR program—

8 “(I) to compete more effectively  
9 for Phase I and Phase II awards; and

10 “(II) to develop and implement a  
11 successful commercialization plan;

12 “(ii) to assist eligible States focusing  
13 on transition and commercialization to win  
14 Phase III awards from public and private  
15 partners;

16 “(iii) to create more competitive pro-  
17 posals to increase awards from all Federal  
18 sources, with a focus on awards under the  
19 SBIR program and the STTR program;  
20 and

21 “(iv) to assist first-time applicants by  
22 providing small grants for proof of concept  
23 research; and

24 “(F) assist applicants for an award under  
25 the SBIR program or the STTR program to

1 identify sources of outside funding, including  
 2 venture capitalists, angel investor groups, pri-  
 3 vate industry, crowd funding, and special loan  
 4 programs.

5 “(8) AWARD AMOUNT.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
 7 shall provide an award to each eligible State in  
 8 which an eligible entity of a regional collabo-  
 9 rative is located in an amount that is not more  
 10 than \$200,000 to carry out the activities de-  
 11 scribed in paragraph (7).

12 “(B) LIMITATION.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible State  
 14 may not receive an award under both the  
 15 FAST program and the pilot program for  
 16 the same year.

17 “(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

18 Nothing in clause (i) may be construed to  
 19 prevent an eligible State from applying for  
 20 an award under the FAST program and  
 21 the pilot program for the same year.

22 “(9) DURATION OF AWARD.—An award pro-  
 23 vided under the pilot program—

24 “(A) shall be for a period of not more than  
 25 1 year; and

1           “(B) may be renewed by the Administrator  
2           for 1 additional year.

3           “(10) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall  
4           terminate on September 30, 2018.

5           “(11) REPORT.—Not later than March 30,  
6           2018, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-  
7           mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of  
8           the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of  
9           the House of Representatives a report on the pilot  
10          program, which shall include—

11           “(A) details regarding the recipient of each  
12          award provided under the pilot program, includ-  
13          ing the amount of each award, the number of  
14          small business concerns that received assistance  
15          from the award amounts, and the manner in  
16          which the award was used to meet the goals de-  
17          scribed in paragraph (3);

18           “(B) to the extent practicable, an assess-  
19          ment of the best practices of the pilot program,  
20          including an analysis of how the pilot program  
21          compares to the FAST program and a single-  
22          State approach; and

23           “(C) recommendations regarding whether  
24          any aspect of the pilot program should be ex-  
25          tended or made permanent.

1       “(uu) OUTSTANDING REPORTS AND EVALUA-  
2 TIONS.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 30,  
4 2018, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-  
5 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of  
6 the Senate, the Committee on Small Business of the  
7 House of Representatives, and the Committee on  
8 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of  
9 Representatives—

10           “(A) each report, evaluation, or analysis,  
11 as applicable, described in subsection (b)(7),  
12 (g)(9), (o)(10), (y)(6)(C), (gg)(6), (jj)(6), and  
13 (mm)(6); and

14           “(B) metrics regarding, and an evaluation  
15 of, the authority provided to the National Insti-  
16 tutes of Health, the Department of Defense,  
17 and the Department of Education under sub-  
18 section (cc).

19           “(2) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—Not later than  
20 December 31, 2017, the head of each agency that is  
21 responsible for carrying out a provision described in  
22 subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) shall sub-  
23 mit to the Administrator any information that is  
24 necessary for the Administrator to carry out the re-

1       sponsibilities of the Administrator under that para-  
2       graph.”.

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       *This Act may be cited as the “SBIR and STTR Over-*  
5       *sight and Pilot Program Extension Act of 2018”.*

6       **SEC. 2. PILOT EXTENSIONS AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE;**  
7       **PILOT PROGRAM.**

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

10               (1) *in subsection (cc), by striking “2017” and*  
11               *inserting “2019”;*

12               (2) *in subsection (gg)(7), by striking “2017” and*  
13               *inserting “2019”;*

14               (3) *in subsection (jj)(7), by striking “2017” and*  
15               *inserting “2019”;*

16               (4) *in subsection (mm)—*

17                       (A) *in paragraph (1)—*

18                               (i) *in the matter preceding subpara-*  
19                               *graph (A), by striking “2017” and inserting*  
20                               *“2019”;*

21                               (ii) *in subparagraph (I), by striking*  
22                               *“and” at the end;*

23                               (iii) *in subparagraph (J), by striking*  
24                               *the period at the end and inserting “; and”;*  
25                               *and*



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

2                   “(K) funding for improvements that in-  
3                   crease commonality across data systems, reduce  
4                   redundancy, and improve data oversight and ac-  
5                   curacy.”; and

6                   (B) by adding at the end the following:

7                   “(7) SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS; FAST PRO-  
8                   GRAM.—

9                   “(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the  
10                  term ‘covered Federal agency’ means a Federal  
11                  agency that—

12                  “(i) is required to conduct an SBIR  
13                  program; and

14                  “(ii) elects to use the funds allocated to  
15                  the SBIR program of the Federal agency for  
16                  the purposes described in paragraph (1).

17                  “(B) REQUIREMENT.—Each covered Federal  
18                  agency shall transfer an amount equal to 15 per-  
19                  cent of the funds that are used for the purposes  
20                  described in paragraph (1) to the Administra-  
21                  tion—

22                  “(i) for the Regional SBIR State Col-  
23                  laborative Initiative Pilot Program estab-  
24                  lished under subsection (tt);

1           “(ii) for the Federal and State Tech-  
2           nology Partnership Program established  
3           under section 34; and

4           “(iii) to support the Office of the Ad-  
5           ministration that administers the SBIR  
6           program and the STTR program, subject to  
7           agreement from other agencies about how  
8           the funds will be used, in carrying out those  
9           programs and the programs described in  
10          clauses (i) and (ii).

11          “(8) PILOT PROGRAM.—

12           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of amounts provided to  
13           the Administration under paragraph (7), not less  
14           than \$5,000,000 shall be used to provide awards  
15           under the Regional SBIR State Collaborative  
16           Initiative Pilot Program established under sub-  
17           section (tt) for each fiscal year in which the pro-  
18           gram is in effect.

19           “(B) DISBURSEMENT FLEXIBILITY.—The  
20           Administration may use any unused funds made  
21           available under subparagraph (A) as of April 1  
22           of each fiscal year for awards to carry out  
23           clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (7)(B) after  
24           providing written notice to—

1           “(i) the Committee on Small Business  
2           and Entrepreneurship and the Committee  
3           on Appropriations of the Senate; and

4           “(ii) the Committee on Small Business  
5           and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
6           House of Representatives.”; and

7           (5) by adding at the end the following:

8           “(H) REGIONAL SBIR STATE COLLABORATIVE INITIA-  
9 TIVE PILOT PROGRAM.—

10           “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

11           “(A) the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

12           “(i) a research institution; and

13           “(ii) a small business concern;

14           “(B) the term ‘eligible State’ means—

15           “(i) a State that the Administrator de-  
16           termines is in the bottom half of States,  
17           based on the average number of annual  
18           SBIR program awards made to companies  
19           in the State for the preceding 3 years for  
20           which the Administration has applicable  
21           data; and

22           “(ii) an EPSCoR State that—

23           “(I) is a State described in clause  
24           (i); or

25           “(II) is—

1                   “(aa) not a State described  
2                   in clause (i); and

3                   “(bb) invited to participate  
4                   in a regional collaborative;

5                   “(C) the term ‘EPSCoR State’ means a  
6                   State that participates in the Established Pro-  
7                   gram to Stimulate Competitive Research of the  
8                   National Science Foundation, as established  
9                   under section 113 of the National Science Foun-  
10                  dation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C.  
11                  1862g);

12                  “(D) the term ‘FAST program’ means the  
13                  Federal and State Technology Partnership Pro-  
14                  gram established under section 34;

15                  “(E) the term ‘pilot program’ means the  
16                  Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative  
17                  Pilot Program established under paragraph (2);

18                  “(F) the term ‘regional collaborative’ means  
19                  a collaborative consisting of eligible entities that  
20                  are located in not less than 3 eligible States; and

21                  “(G) the term ‘State’ means any State of  
22                  the United States, the District of Columbia, the  
23                  Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any terri-  
24                  tory or possession of the United States.

1           “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Administrator shall*  
2           *establish a pilot program, to be known as the Re-*  
3           *gional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Pro-*  
4           *gram, under which the Administrator shall provide*  
5           *awards to regional collaboratives to address the needs*  
6           *of small business concerns in order to—*

7                   “(A) *be more competitive in the proposal*  
8                   *and selection process for awards under the SBIR*  
9                   *program and the STTR program; and*

10                   “(B) *increase technology transfer and com-*  
11                   *mercialization.*

12           “(3) *GOALS.*—*The goals of the pilot program*  
13           *are—*

14                   “(A) *to create regional collaboratives that*  
15                   *allow eligible entities to work cooperatively to le-*  
16                   *verage resources to address the needs of small*  
17                   *business concerns;*

18                   “(B) *to grow SBIR program and STTR*  
19                   *program cooperative research and development*  
20                   *and commercialization through increased awards*  
21                   *under those programs;*

22                   “(C) *to increase the participation of States*  
23                   *that have historically received a lower level of*  
24                   *awards under the SBIR program and the STTR*  
25                   *program;*

1           “(D) to utilize the strengths and advantages  
2 of regional collaboratives to better leverage re-  
3 sources, best practices, and economies of scale in  
4 a region for the purpose of increasing awards  
5 and increasing the commercialization of the  
6 SBIR program and STTR projects;

7           “(E) to increase the competitiveness of the  
8 SBIR program and the STTR program;

9           “(F) to identify sources of outside funding  
10 for applicants for an award under the SBIR  
11 program or the STTR program, including ven-  
12 ture capitalists, angel investor groups, private  
13 industry, crowd funding, and special loan pro-  
14 grams; and

15           “(G) to offer increased one-on-one engage-  
16 ments with companies and entrepreneurs for  
17 SBIR program and STTR program education,  
18 assistance, and successful outcomes.

19           “(4) APPLICATION.—

20           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A regional collaborative  
21 that desires to participate in the pilot program  
22 shall submit to the Administrator an application  
23 at such time, in such manner, and containing  
24 such information as the Administrator may re-  
25 quire.

1           “(B) *INCLUSION OF LEAD ELIGIBLE ENTI-*  
2           *TIES AND COORDINATOR.*—*A regional collabo-*  
3           *rative shall include in an application submitted*  
4           *under subparagraph (A)—*

5                     “(i) *the name of each lead eligible enti-*  
6                     *ty from each eligible State in the regional*  
7                     *collaborative, as designated under para-*  
8                     *graph (5)(A); and*

9                     “(ii) *the name of the coordinator for*  
10                    *the regional collaborative, as designated*  
11                    *under paragraph (6).*

12           “(C) *AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.*—*A re-*  
13           *gional collaborative shall include in an applica-*  
14           *tion submitted under subparagraph (A) an ex-*  
15           *planation regarding how the activities of the re-*  
16           *gional collaborative under the pilot program*  
17           *would differ from other State and Federal out-*  
18           *reach activities in each eligible State in the re-*  
19           *gional collaborative.*

20           “(5) *LEAD ELIGIBLE ENTITY.*—

21                     “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Each eligible State in a*  
22                     *regional collaborative shall designate 1 eligible*  
23                     *entity located in the eligible State to serve as the*  
24                     *lead eligible entity for the eligible State.*

1           “(B) *AUTHORIZATION BY GOVERNOR.—*  
2           *Each lead eligible entity designated under sub-*  
3           *paragraph (A) shall be authorized to act as the*  
4           *lead eligible entity by the Governor of the appli-*  
5           *cable eligible State.*

6           “(C) *RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each lead eligi-*  
7           *ble entity designated under subparagraph (A)*  
8           *shall be responsible for administering the activi-*  
9           *ties and program initiatives described in para-*  
10          *graph (7) in the applicable eligible State.*

11          “(6) *REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE COORDI-*  
12          *NATOR.—Each regional collaborative shall designate a*  
13          *coordinator from amongst the eligible entities located*  
14          *in the eligible States in the regional collaborative,*  
15          *who shall serve as the interface between the regional*  
16          *collaborative and the Administration with respect to*  
17          *measuring cross-State collaboration and program ef-*  
18          *fectiveness and documenting best practices.*

19          “(7) *USE OF FUNDS.—Each regional collabo-*  
20          *rative that is provided an award under the pilot pro-*  
21          *gram may, in each eligible State in which an eligible*  
22          *entity of the regional collaborative is located—*

23                 “(A) *establish an initiative under which*  
24                 *first-time applicants for an award under the*  
25                 *SBIR program or the STTR program are re-*



1           *viewed by experienced, national experts in the*  
2           *United States, as determined by the lead eligible*  
3           *entity designated under paragraph (5)(A);*

4           “(B) *engage national mentors on a frequent*  
5           *basis to work directly with applicants for an*  
6           *award under the SBIR program or the STTR*  
7           *program, particularly during Phase II, to assist*  
8           *with the process of preparing and submitting a*  
9           *proposal;*

10           “(C) *create and make available an online*  
11           *mechanism to serve as a resource for applicants*  
12           *for an award under the SBIR program or the*  
13           *STTR program to identify and connect with*  
14           *Federal labs, prime government contractor com-*  
15           *panies, other industry partners, and regional in-*  
16           *dustry cluster organizations;*

17           “(D) *conduct focused and concentrated out-*  
18           *reach efforts to increase participation in the*  
19           *SBIR program and the STTR program by small*  
20           *business concerns owned and controlled by*  
21           *women, small business concerns owned and con-*  
22           *trolled by veterans, small business concerns*  
23           *owned and controlled by socially and economi-*  
24           *cally disadvantaged individuals (as defined in*

1           *section 8(d)(3)(C)), and historically Black col-*  
2           *leges and universities;*

3           *“(E) administer a structured program of*  
4           *training and technical assistance—*

5           *“(i) to prepare applicants for an*  
6           *award under the SBIR program or the*  
7           *STTR program—*

8           *“(I) to compete more effectively*  
9           *for Phase I and Phase II awards; and*

10           *“(II) to develop and implement a*  
11           *successful commercialization plan;*

12           *“(ii) to assist eligible States focusing*  
13           *on transition and commercialization to win*  
14           *Phase III awards from public and private*  
15           *partners;*

16           *“(iii) to create more competitive pro-*  
17           *posals to increase awards from all Federal*  
18           *sources, with a focus on awards under the*  
19           *SBIR program and the STTR program;*  
20           *and*

21           *“(iv) to assist first-time applicants by*  
22           *providing small grants for proof of concept*  
23           *research; and*

24           *“(F) assist applicants for an award under*  
25           *the SBIR program or the STTR program to*

1           *identify sources of outside funding, including*  
2           *venture capitalists, angel investor groups, pri-*  
3           *vate industry, crowd funding, and special loan*  
4           *programs.*

5           “(8) *AWARD AMOUNT.*—

6                   “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator*  
7           *shall provide an award to each eligible State in*  
8           *which an eligible entity of a regional collabo-*  
9           *rative is located in an amount that is not more*  
10          *than \$300,000 to carry out the activities de-*  
11          *scribed in paragraph (7).*

12                   “(B) *LIMITATION.*—

13                           “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*An eligible State*  
14           *may not receive an award under both the*  
15           *FAST program and the pilot program for*  
16           *the same year.*

17                           “(ii) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*Noth-*  
18           *ing in clause (i) may be construed to pre-*  
19           *vent an eligible State from applying for an*  
20           *award under the FAST program and the*  
21           *pilot program for the same year.*

22                   “(9) *DURATION OF AWARD.*—*An award provided*  
23          *under the pilot program—*

24                           “(A) *shall be for a period of not more than*  
25           *1 year; and*

1           “(B) may be renewed by the Administrator  
2           for 1 additional year.

3           “(10) *TERMINATION.*—The pilot program shall  
4           terminate on September 30, 2019.

5           “(11) *REPORT.*—Not later than March 30, 2019,  
6           the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on  
7           Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate  
8           and the Committee on Small Business of the House  
9           of Representatives a report on the pilot program,  
10          which shall include—

11           “(A) details regarding the recipient of each  
12          award provided under the pilot program, includ-  
13          ing the amount of each award, the number of  
14          small business concerns that received assistance  
15          from the award amounts, and the manner in  
16          which the award was used to meet the goals de-  
17          scribed in paragraph (3);

18           “(B) to the extent practicable, an assess-  
19          ment of the best practices of the pilot program,  
20          including an analysis of how the pilot program  
21          compares to the FAST program and a single-  
22          State approach; and

23           “(C) recommendations regarding whether  
24          any aspect of the pilot program should be ex-  
25          tended or made permanent.

1       “(uu) *OUTSTANDING REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.*—

2               “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than March 30,  
3       2019, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-  
4       mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of  
5       the Senate, the Committee on Small Business of the  
6       House of Representatives, and the Committee on  
7       Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
8       resentatives—

9               “(A) each report, evaluation, or analysis, as  
10       applicable, described in subsection (b)(7), (g)(9),  
11       (o)(10), (y)(6)(C), (gg)(6), (jj)(6), and (mm)(6);  
12       and

13              “(B) metrics regarding, and an evaluation  
14       of, the authority provided to the National Insti-  
15       tutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and  
16       the Department of Education under subsection  
17       (cc).

18              “(2) *INFORMATION REQUIRED.*—Not later than  
19       December 31, 2018, the head of each agency that is  
20       responsible for carrying out a provision described in  
21       subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) shall sub-  
22       mit to the Administrator any information that is nec-  
23       essary for the Administrator to carry out the respon-  
24       sibilities of the Administrator under that para-  
25       graph.”.

Calendar No. 349

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. 1961**

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**A BILL**

To amend the Small Business Act to temporarily reauthorize certain pilot programs under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

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MARCH 19, 2018

Reported with an amendment