

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6975

To amend the Small Business Act to establish a rural manufacturing forgivable loan program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. CRAWFORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to establish a rural manufacturing forgivable loan 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 “Rural Investment in
5 America Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL MANUFACTURING LOANS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Small Busi-
8 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and
2 (F)” and inserting “(F), and (G)”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following new
4 subparagraph:

5 “(G) PARTICIPATION IN RURAL MANUFAC-
6 TURING LOANS.—In an agreement to partici-
7 pate in a loan on a deferred basis under para-
8 graph (38), the participation by the Adminis-
9 tration shall be 100 percent.”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new
11 paragraph:

12 “(38) RURAL MANUFACTURING LOANS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
14 may guarantee a loan made under this para-
15 graph to a covered applicant for the purpose of
16 paying any eligible costs associated with the de-
17 velopment of a business concern that manufac-
18 tures goods essential to critical infrastructure
19 sectors in rural areas.

20 “(B) APPLICATION.—A covered applicant
21 shall submit an application for a loan under
22 this paragraph which shall include a com-
23 prehensive business plan that includes a goal
24 for the resulting number of jobs to be created

1 at the site that will be developed or expanded
2 with the proceeds of such loan.

3 “(C) LOAN FORGIVENESS.—A covered ap-
4 plicant shall be eligible for forgiveness of any
5 indebtedness on a loan made under this para-
6 graph as follows:

7 “(i) If the covered applicant has met
8 75 percent or more of the job creation
9 goals of the comprehensive business plan
10 described in subparagraph (B) not later
11 than 5 years after the date of origination
12 of the loan.

13 “(ii) If the Administrator makes a de-
14 termination that the covered applicant only
15 used loan proceeds for eligible costs, the
16 covered applicant shall receive loan forgive-
17 ness in an amount—

18 “(I) less than or equal to an
19 amount that is 50 percent of the total
20 financing amount specified by the cov-
21 ered applicant; and

22 “(II) less than or equal to max-
23 imum amount allowable under para-
24 graph (3)(A).

1 “(D) IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL
2 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS.—

3 “(i) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date of enactment of this para-
5 graph, the Administrator shall complete a
6 study to identify any additional sectors to
7 be included in the definition of the term
8 ‘critical infrastructure sector’ under this
9 paragraph.

10 “(ii) PROVISION OF LOANS PRIOR TO
11 COMPLETION OF STUDY.—The Adminis-
12 trator may guarantee a loan made under
13 this paragraph before the completion of the
14 study required under clause (i).

15 “(iii) ADDITIONAL CRITICAL INFRA-
16 STRUCTURE SECTORS.—The Administrator
17 may, at any time, take such actions as are
18 necessary to identify additional sectors to
19 be included in the definition of the term
20 ‘critical infrastructure sector’ under this
21 paragraph.

22 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

23 “(i) COVERED APPLICANT.—The term
24 ‘covered applicant’ means a business
25 that—

1 “(I) has a site located in rural
2 area industrial park, manufactures
3 goods that are essential to critical in-
4 frastructure sectors at such site, and
5 intends to expand such site for pur-
6 poses of employing a larger workforce
7 at such site; or

8 “(II) is developing a site located
9 in a rural area industrial park to
10 manufacture goods that are essential
11 to critical infrastructure sectors at
12 such site.

13 “(ii) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SEC-
14 TOR.—The term ‘critical infrastructure
15 sector’ means—

16 “(I) each of the 16 critical infra-
17 structure sectors designated in Presi-
18 dential Policy Directive 21, titled
19 ‘Critical Infrastructure Security and
20 Resilience’ and published on February
21 12, 2013;

22 “(II) any additional sectors iden-
23 tified pursuant to section 9002 of the
24 National Defense Authorization Act

1 for Fiscal Year 2021 (6 U.S.C. 652a);
2 and

3 “(III) any additional sectors the
4 Administrator identifies under sub-
5 paragraph (C).

6 “(iii) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—The term ‘el-
7 igible costs’ means—

8 “(I) payroll, construction, permit-
9 ting, and other capital costs associ-
10 ated with—

11 “(aa) the development of a
12 site located in a rural area indus-
13 trial park for a business that
14 manufactures goods that are es-
15 sential to critical infrastructure
16 sectors at such site; and

17 “(bb) the expansion of such
18 a site for purposes of employing
19 a larger workforce at such site;
20 and

21 “(II) any other costs the Admin-
22 istrator determines to be appro-
23 priate.”.

24 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
25 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the

1 Small Business Administration \$2,000,000,000, which
2 shall be authorized to remain available until expended, to
3 carry out paragraph (38) of section 7(a) of the Small
4 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), as added by subsection
5 (a).

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