

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8844

AN ACT

To reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the
Small Business Administration, 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 “STEP Improvement
3 Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

5 (a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 22(l)(3)
6 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)) is amend-
7 ed—

8 (1) in subparagraph (D)—

9 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “, including
10 a budget plan for use of funds awarded under
11 this subsection” before the period at the end;
12 and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new
14 clause:

15 “(iii) TIMING.—The Associate Admin-
16 istrator shall—

17 “(I) publish information on how
18 to apply for a grant under this sub-
19 section, including specific calculations
20 and other determinations used to
21 award such a grant, not later than
22 March 31 of each year;

23 “(II) establish a deadline for the
24 submission of applications that is not
25 earlier than 60 days after the date on
26 which the information is published

1 under subclause (I) and that is not
2 later than May 31; and
3 “(III) announce grant recipients
4 not later than August 31 of each
5 year.”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 paragraphs:

8 “(E) APPLICATION INFORMATION.—The
9 Associate Administrator shall clearly commu-
10 nicate to applicants and grant recipients any in-
11 formation about State Trade Expansion Pro-
12 gram, including—

13 “(i) for each unsuccessful applicant
14 for a grant awarded under this subsection,
15 recommendations to improve a subsequent
16 application for such a grant; and

17 “(ii) for each successful applicant for
18 such a grant, an explanation for the
19 amount awarded, if different from the
20 amount requested in the application.

21 “(F) BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving
23 a grant under this subsection may revise
24 the budget plan of the State submitted

1 under subparagraph (D) after the dis-
2 bursal of grant funds if—

3 “(I) the revision complies with al-
4 lowable uses of grant funds under this
5 subsection; and

6 “(II) such State submits notifica-
7 tion of the revision to the Associate
8 Administrator.

9 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—If a revision under
10 clause (i) reallocates 10 percent or more of
11 the amounts described in the budget plan
12 of the State submitted under subparagraph
13 (D), the State may not implement the re-
14 vised budget plan without the approval of
15 the Associate Administrator, unless the As-
16 sociate Administrator fails to approve or
17 deny the revised plan within 20 days after
18 receipt of such revised plan.”.

19 (b) SURVEY.—Section 22(l) of the Small Business
20 Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through
22 (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;
23 and

24 (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
25 lowing new paragraph:

1 “(7) SURVEY.—The Associate Administrator
2 shall conduct an annual survey of each State that
3 received a grant under this subsection during the
4 preceding year to solicit feedback on the program
5 and develop best practices for grantees.”.

6 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 22(l)(8)(B) of the
7 Small Business Act, as redesignated by subsection (b), is
8 amended—

9 (1) in clause (i)—

10 (A) in subclause (III), by inserting “, in-
11 cluding the total number of eligible small busi-
12 ness concerns assisted by the program
13 (disaggregated by socially and economically dis-
14 advantaged small business concerns, small busi-
15 ness concerns owned and controlled by women,
16 and rural small business concerns)” before the
17 semicolon at the end;

18 (B) in subclause (IV), by striking “and” at
19 the end;

20 (C) in subclause (V)—

21 (i) by striking “description of best
22 practices” and inserting “detailed descrip-
23 tion of best practices”; and

24 (ii) by striking the period at the end
25 and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (D) by adding at the end the following new
2 subclauses:

3 “(VI) an analysis of the perform-
4 ance metrics described in clause (iii),
5 including a determination of whether
6 or not any goals relating to such per-
7 formance metrics were met, and an
8 analysis of the survey described in
9 paragraph (7); and

10 “(VII) a description of lessons
11 learned by grant recipients under this
12 subsection that may apply to other as-
13 sistance provided by the Administra-
14 tion.”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new
16 clause:

17 “(iii) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—An-
18 nually, the Associate Administrator shall
19 collect data on eligible small business con-
20 cerns assisted by the program for the fol-
21 lowing performance metrics:

22 “(I) Total number of such con-
23 cerns, disaggregated by socially and
24 economically disadvantaged small
25 business concerns, small business con-

cerns owned and controlled by women,
and rural small business concerns.

“(II) Total dollar amount of export sales by eligible small business concerns assisted by the program.

“(III) Number of such concerns that have not previously participated in an activity described in paragraph (2).

“(IV) Number of such concerns that, because of participation in the program, have accessed a new market.

“(V) Number of such concerns that, because of participation in the program, have created new jobs.

“(VI) Number of such concerns participating in foreign trade missions or trade show exhibitions, disaggregated by socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and rural small business concerns.”.

1 (d) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE SMALL
2 BUSINESS CONCERN.—Section 22(l)(1)(A) of the Small
3 Business Act is amended—

4 (1) in clause (iii)(II), by adding “and” at the
5 end;

6 (2) by striking clause (iv); and

7 (3) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
9 22(l)(10) of the Small Business Act, as redesignated by
10 subsection (b), is amended by striking “fiscal years 2016
11 through 2020” and inserting “fiscal years 2023 through
12 2026”.

13 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Associate
15 Administrator for International Trade of the Small Busi-
16 ness Administration shall submit to Congress a report on
17 the State Trade Expansion Program established under
18 section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l))
19 that includes a description of—

20 (1) the process developed for review of revised
21 budget plans submitted under section 22(l)(3)(F) of
22 the Small Business Act, as added by this Act;

23 (2) any changes made to streamline the applica-
24 tion process to remove duplicative requirements and
25 create a more transparent process;

1 (3) the process developed to share best prac-
2 tices by States described in section 22(l)(8)(B)(i)(V)
3 (as redesignated by this Act), particularly for first-
4 time grant recipients under the State Trade Expans-
5 sion Program or grant recipients that are facing
6 problems using grant funds; and
7 (4) the process developed to communicate, both
8 verbally and in writing, relevant information about
9 the State Trade Expansion Program to all grant re-
10 cipients in a timely manner.

Passed the House of Representatives December 6,
2022.

Attest:

Clerk.

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