

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5999

To enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Mr. MFUME (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. PHILLIPS) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, 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 Regu-
5 latory Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SBA REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT OMBUDSMAN.**

2 Section 30(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
3 657(b)(2)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) by striking “with each agency with
7 regulatory authority” and inserting the fol-
8 lowing: “with—

9 “(i) each Federal agency with regu-
10 latory authority”;

11 (ii) by inserting “and” after the semi-
12 colon; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(ii) each Federal agency with regu-
16 latory authority over small business con-
17 cerns or that makes grants or enters into
18 contracts or cooperative agreements with
19 small entities to develop best practices to
20 assist the Federal agency in—

21 “(I) establishing a program to
22 assist small entities (as defined in sec-
23 tion 601 of title 5, United States
24 Code) in meeting regulatory require-
25 ments imposed by that Federal agen-
26 cy, including by responding to inquir-

ies under section 213 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note);

“(II) educating small entities about the regulations of that Federal agency that are applicable to small entities;

“(III) training small entities to comply with the regulations of that Federal agency;

“(IV) assisting small entities in completing forms relating to such grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements required by the regulations of that Federal agency;

“(V) addressing any specific question or concern of small entities;

“(VI) evaluating compliance guides described under section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note);

“(VII) ensuring that the compliance guides described in subclause

1 (VI) are available to small business
2 development centers and to other re-
3 source partners of the Administration;
4 and

5 “(VIII) developing webinars re-
6 lating to compliance assistance for—

7 “(aa) recently finalized rules
8 of the Federal agency; and

9 “(bb) rules relating to which
10 the Federal agency or Ombuds-
11 man receives a significant num-
12 ber of compliance inquiries from
13 small entities;”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking
15 “and” at the end;

16 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
17 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
18 and

19 (D) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(F) in collaboration with the employee of
21 a Federal agency designated by the head of the
22 Federal agency as the primary point of contact
23 with the Ombudsman, establish a procedure re-
24 lating to how the Federal agency will provide
25 information—

1 “(i) to small business concerns re-
2 garding the Ombudsman; and

3 “(ii) to the Ombudsman regarding the
4 nature, scope, and resolution of requests to
5 the Federal agency from small business
6 concerns about proposed, final, or existing
7 rules;

8 “(G) work with each Federal agency with
9 regulatory authority over small business con-
10 cerns and with programs of the Administration
11 (including the Service Corps of Retired Execu-
12 tives authorized under section 8(b)(1)(B), wom-
13 en’s business centers operating under section
14 29, and small business development centers) to
15 conduct a robust outreach initiative, including
16 through the use of the Internet, to increase the
17 visibility of the Ombudsman and promote
18 awareness of the services available from the
19 Ombudsman; and

20 “(H) make information regarding the edu-
21 cation, training, and compliance assistance serv-
22 ices of the Ombudsman readily available on the
23 website of the Ombudsman.”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(3) PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT.—The head
2 of each Federal agency with regulatory authority
3 over small business concerns or that makes grants
4 or enters into contracts or cooperative agreements
5 with small business concerns shall designate an em-
6 ployee of the Federal agency as the primary point of
7 contact with the Ombudsman.”.

8 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 Section 30 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657)
10 is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 such sums as are necessary.”.

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