

Union Calendar No. 183

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4549

[Report No. 119–225]

To amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2025

Ms. GOODLANDER (for herself, Mr. WIED, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

AUGUST 15, 2025

Additional sponsor: Mr. FITZPATRICK

AUGUST 15, 2025

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Office of Rural Affairs
 5 Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE SMALL BUSI-**
 7 **NESS ADMINISTRATION.**

8 Section 26 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 653)
 9 is amended—

10 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
 11 lows:

12 “(b) APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-
 13 TRATOR.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be admin-
 15 istered by an Assistant Administrator, who shall be
 16 an employee in the competitive service.

17 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Admin-
 18 istrator shall—

19 “(A) have education or professional experi-
 20 ence with, or knowledge of, rural affairs and
 21 issues relating to small business concerns; and

22 “(B) have experience providing develop-
 23 ment assistance to rural small business con-
 24 cerns.”;

25 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “small
2 business concerns located in rural areas” and
3 inserting “rural small business concerns”;

4 (B) in paragraph (3)—

5 (i) by striking “provide information”
6 and inserting “promote”; and

7 (ii) by striking “concerning the” and
8 all that follows through the semicolon at
9 the end and inserting the following: “on
10 the policies and programs of the Adminis-
11 tration and of other Federal departments
12 and agencies for assisting rural small busi-
13 ness concerns;”;

14 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and”
15 and inserting a semicolon;

16 (D) in paragraph (5)—

17 (i) by striking “the United States
18 Tourism and Travel Administration” and
19 inserting “the National Travel and Tour-
20 ism Office of the Department of Com-
21 merce”;

22 (ii) by striking “small businesses in
23 rural areas” and inserting “rural small
24 business concerns”; and

1 (iii) by striking the period at the end
2 and inserting “; and”; and

3 (E) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraph:

5 “(6) host webinars and outreach events for
6 rural small business concerns as described in sub-
7 section (d).”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 sections:

10 “(d) OUTREACH.—The Assistant Administrator
11 shall—

12 “(1) host webinars and outreach events in var-
13 ious regions of the United States for rural small
14 business concerns; and

15 “(2) invite representatives from district offices
16 of the Administration, resource partners, Federal
17 and State agencies, and other interested persons to
18 participate in such webinars and outreach events.

19 “(e) REPORT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
22 and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall sub-
23 mit to the Committee on Small Business of the
24 House of Representatives and the Committee on
25 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate,

1 and make publicly available on a website of the Ad-
2 ministration, a report on the activities of the Office
3 during the one-year period immediately preceding
4 the date of submission of the report.

5 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required under
6 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

7 “(A) The operational details of the Office,
8 including the name of the Assistant Adminis-
9 trator, the budget of the Office, and the num-
10 ber of full-time employees employed by or de-
11 tailed to the Office.

12 “(B) A summary of the activities con-
13 ducted under subsection (c).

14 “(C) The number of webinars and out-
15 reach events conducted by the Administration
16 to promote policies and programs described in
17 paragraph (3) of subsection (c) and to provide
18 information described in paragraph (4) of such
19 subsection.

20 “(D) An analysis of the lending programs
21 of the Administration in serving the needs of
22 rural small business concerns.

23 “(E) Information gathered from any
24 webinars and outreach events conducted by the

1 Administration during the period covered by the
2 report.

3 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term
5 ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-
6 ministrator of the Office of Rural Affairs appointed
7 under subsection (b).

8 “(2) RESOURCE PARTNERS.—The term ‘re-
9 source partners’ means—

10 “(A) small business development centers;

11 “(B) women’s business centers (described
12 under section 29);

13 “(C) chapters of the Service Corps of Re-
14 tired Executives (established under section
15 8(b)(1)(B)); and

16 “(D) Veteran Business Outreach Centers
17 (described under section 32).

18 “(3) RURAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The
19 term ‘rural small business concern’ means a small
20 business concern located in a rural area (as defined
21 in section 7(b)(16) of this Act).”.

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