

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1093

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 2025

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

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office
of Rural Affairs, 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 “Coordinated Support
5 for Rural Small Businesses 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—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “ESTABLISH-
2 MENT.—” before “There”;

3 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
4 lows:

5 “(b) APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-
6 TRATOR.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be admin-
8 istered by an Assistant Administrator, who shall—

9 “(A) be appointed by the Administrator;
10 and

11 “(B) serve as a noncareer appointee, as de-
12 fined in section 3132(a)(7) of title 5, United
13 States Code.

14 “(2) QUALIFICATION.—The position of Assist-
15 ant Administrator shall be a Senior Executive Serv-
16 ice position under section 3132(a)(2) of title 5,
17 United States Code.”;

18 (3) in subsection (c)—

19 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
20 by inserting “DUTIES.—” before “The Office”;

21 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “small
22 business concerns located in rural areas” and
23 inserting “rural small business concerns”;

24 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “con-
25 cerning the” and all that follows through the

1 semicolon at the end and inserting the fol-
2 lowing: “on the policies and programs of the
3 Administration and of other Federal depart-
4 ments and agencies for assisting rural small
5 business concerns;”;

6 (D) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and”
7 and inserting a semicolon;

8 (E) in paragraph (5)—

9 (i) by striking “the United States
10 Tourism and Travel Administration” and
11 inserting “the National Travel and Tour-
12 ism Office of the Department of Com-
13 merce”;

14 (ii) by striking “small businesses in
15 rural areas” and inserting “rural small
16 business concerns”; and

17 (iii) by striking the period at the end
18 and inserting “; and”; and

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

20 “(6) host outreach events for rural small busi-
21 ness concerns as described in subsection (d).”; and

22 (4) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(d) OUTREACH.—The Assistant Administrator
24 shall—

1 “(1) host outreach events in various regions of
2 the United States for rural small business concerns;
3 and

4 “(2) invite representatives from district offices
5 of the Administration, resource partners, Federal
6 and State agencies, and other interested persons to
7 participate in such outreach events.

8 “(e) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Assistant
9 Administrator shall coordinate with the Department to—

10 “(1) conduct outreach regarding programs of
11 the Administration and the Department and to im-
12 prove awareness and utilization of the existing pro-
13 grams and services of each agency; and

14 “(2) convene interagency working groups to ad-
15 dress issues including—

16 “(A) capital access and investment in rural
17 areas of the United States, which may in-
18 clude—

19 “(i) identifying areas of overlap be-
20 tween the business loan programs of the
21 Administration and the Department of Ag-
22 riculture, including where intermediaries
23 may be able to participate in programs at
24 both agencies;

1 “(ii) assessing opportunities for co-
2 ordination between the Administration and
3 the Department on programs for rural
4 communities of each agency through the
5 district offices of the Administration, rela-
6 tionships with rural lenders, resource part-
7 ners of the Administration, and joint out-
8 reach and marketing efforts;

9 “(iii) improving information sharing
10 and discussion of best practices between
11 the Administration and the Department;

12 “(iv) examining coordination between
13 the small business investment company
14 program under part A of title III of the
15 Small Business Investment Act of 1958
16 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) and related pro-
17 grams at the Department, including the
18 Rural Business Investment Program of the
19 Department;

20 “(v) examining opportunities for co-
21 ordination between the disaster assistance
22 programs of the Administration and the
23 Department; and

24 “(vi) addressing barriers and exam-
25 ining opportunities for cooperatives to par-

1 participate in programs and access resources
2 of the Administration that are similar to
3 the financing programs of the Department
4 that serve cooperatives; and

5 “(B) assisting rural small business con-
6 cerns, which may include—

7 “(i) identifying overlap and frag-
8 mentation among the rural markets identi-
9 fied by the Department and rural census
10 tracts identified by the Administration;

11 “(ii) exploring opportunities to sup-
12 port innovation in rural areas;

13 “(iii) coordinating effective support
14 initiatives that benefit Native Americans;
15 and

16 “(iv) collaborating on technical assist-
17 ance, especially with respect to exportation
18 and procurement.

19 “(f) UPDATES.—Not later than 7 days after any
20 change to or new issuance of a memorandum of under-
21 standing between the Administration and the Department,
22 the Administration shall notify the appropriate congres-
23 sional committees.

24 “(g) REPORT.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
3 and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall sub-
4 mit to the appropriate congressional committees and
5 make publicly available on a website of the Adminis-
6 tration a report on the activities of the Office during
7 the 1-year period immediately preceding the date of
8 submission of the report.

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

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

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

18 “(C) The number of outreach events con-
19 ducted by the Administration to promote poli-
20 cies and programs described in paragraph (3)
21 of subsection (c) and to provide information de-
22 scribed in paragraph (4) of such subsection.

23 “(D) An analysis of the lending programs
24 of the Administration in serving the needs of
25 rural small business concerns.

1 “(E) A summary of activities conducted
2 under subsection (e), including—

3 “(i) the status of any memorandum of
4 understanding between the Administration
5 and the Department of Agriculture to fur-
6 ther the goals of improving service deliv-
7 ery, advice, and assistance for rural small
8 business concerns;

9 “(ii) a summary of outreach efforts
10 under subsection (e)(1);

11 “(iii) a summary of working groups
12 created under subsection (e)(2), including
13 any areas of overlap identified in capital
14 access programs under subparagraph (A)
15 of such subsection; and

16 “(iv) efforts to assist rural small busi-
17 ness concerns under subsection (e)(2)(B).

18 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
20 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees’ means—

22 “(A) the Committees on Small Business
23 and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on
24 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
25 ate; and

1 “(B) the Committee on Small Business
2 and the Committee on Agriculture of the House
3 of Representatives.

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

8 “(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ‘Department’
9 means the Department of Agriculture.”.

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