

Union Calendar No. 274

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5078

[Report No. 116–344]

To amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. CHABOT) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

DECEMBER 12, 2019

Additional sponsors: Mr. SPANO and Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma

DECEMBER 12, 2019

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 provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for incarcerated individuals, 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 “Prison to Proprietor-
5 ship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RE-ENTRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNSELING AND**
7 **TRAINING FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.**

8 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by redesignating section 49 as section 50;

11 and

12 (2) by inserting after section 48 the following
13 new section:

14 **“SEC. 49. RE-ENTRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNSELING**
15 **AND TRAINING FOR INCARCERATED INDIVID-**
16 **UALS.**

17 “(a) SERVICES REQUIRED.—The Administrator, in
18 coordination with the Director of the Bureau of Prisons,
19 shall require women’s business centers and small business
20 development centers identified under the plan described in
21 subsection (b) to provide entrepreneurship counseling and
22 training services to covered individuals.

23 “(b) PLAN.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-
25 sultation with an association formed to pursue mat-

1 ters of common concern to women’s business centers
2 and an association of small business development
3 centers formed pursuant to section 21(a)(3)(A),
4 shall develop a plan, which shall be updated annu-
5 ally, to match women’s business centers and small
6 business development centers with covered individ-
7 uals in Federal prisons who are eligible to receive
8 services under this section.

9 “(2) MATCHING.—In determining matches
10 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall
11 prioritize matching the women’s business center or
12 small business development center in closest prox-
13 imity to the applicable Federal prison to provide
14 such services.

15 “(3) ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES.—If the
16 women’s business center or small business develop-
17 ment center identified under the plan in paragraph
18 (1) is unable to provide such services to covered in-
19 dividuals in such Federal prison, another women’s
20 business center or small business development cen-
21 ter, an association of women’s business centers, or
22 an association of small business development centers
23 shall provide such services in accordance with the re-
24 quirements of this section.

1 “(c) GOALS.—The goal of the services provided under
2 this section is to provide covered individuals with the fol-
3 lowing:

4 “(1) Assistance and in-depth training on how to
5 start or expand a small business concern.

6 “(2) Tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to
7 identify a business opportunity, including how to—

8 “(A) draft a resume, business plan, and
9 transition plan;

10 “(B) identify sources of capital; and

11 “(C) connect with local resources for small
12 business concerns.

13 “(d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The services
14 provided under this section shall include—

15 “(1) a presentation providing exposure to the
16 opportunities involved in self-employment and own-
17 ership of a small business concern;

18 “(2) a self-study course manual focused on the
19 basic skills of entrepreneurship, financial literacy,
20 the language of business, and the considerations and
21 life skills relevant to self-employment and ownership
22 of a small business concern;

23 “(3) five two-day sessions of in-depth classroom
24 instruction introducing the foundations of self-em-
25 ployment and ownership of small business concerns,

1 including guided discussions to explore personal en-
2 trepreneurial development interests;

3 “(4) in-depth training delivered through one-on-
4 one mentorship, including individual support in the
5 development of a business plan, entrepreneurial
6 skills, and strategies for starting up a small business
7 concern; and

8 “(5) upon completion of the counseling and
9 training, a presentation of a certificate.

10 “(e) PRIORITY.—The Administrator shall, to the ex-
11 tent practicable, ensure that women’s business centers and
12 small business development centers prioritize providing en-
13 trepreneurship counseling and training services to covered
14 individuals who will be released from Federal custody not
15 later than 18 months after the date on which such a cov-
16 ered individual begins to receive such services.

17 “(f) CONTINUATION OF SERVICES.—A covered indi-
18 vidual receiving services under this section may continue
19 to receive such services after release from Federal custody.

20 “(g) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out this sec-
21 tion, the Administrator may award a grant to an associa-
22 tion formed to pursue matters of common concern to wom-
23 en’s business centers or small business development cen-
24 ters to coordinate the services described under this section,
25 including to develop curriculum, train mentors and in-

1 structors, and establish public-private partnerships to sup-
2 port covered individuals and identify opportunities to ac-
3 cess capital.

4 “(h) CURRICULUM.—The Administration shall print
5 and make available to women’s business centers, small
6 business development centers, an association of women’s
7 business centers, or an association of small business devel-
8 opment centers any curriculum or course materials devel-
9 oped pursuant to this section.

10 “(i) SURVEY.—Each women’s business center or
11 small business development center that provided services
12 under this section shall survey covered individuals who re-
13 ceived such services to assess the satisfaction of such cov-
14 ered individuals with such services.

15 “(j) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
16 of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter,
17 the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small
18 Business of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the
20 Senate a report on the performance and effectiveness of
21 the services provided under this section, which may be in-
22 cluded as part of another report submitted to such com-
23 mittees by the Administrator, and which shall include—

24 “(1) the number of covered individuals coun-
25 seled or trained under this section;

1 “(2) the number of hours of counseling pro-
2 vided by each women’s business center and each
3 small business development center under this sec-
4 tion;

5 “(3) the number of certificates presented under
6 subsection (d)(5);

7 “(4) the demographics of covered individuals
8 who received services, including age, gender, race,
9 and ethnicity;

10 “(5) the level of understanding of business con-
11 cepts of covered individuals upon completion of the
12 counseling and training described under this section;

13 “(6) a summary and analysis of surveys con-
14 ducted under subsection (i); and

15 “(7) any additional information the Adminis-
16 trator may require.

17 “(k) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
18 tion, the term ‘covered individual’ means an individual in-
19 carcerated in a Federal prison that the Director of the
20 Bureau of Prisons has designated as a minimum, low, or
21 medium security prison.

22 “(l) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appro-
23 priations, the Administrator shall reimburse women’s
24 business centers, small business development centers, an
25 association of women’s business centers, or an association

1 of small business development centers for the costs relat-
2 ing to the services provided under the section.”.

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