

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3531

To amend the Small Business Act to ensure small businesses affected by the onset of communicable diseases are eligible for disaster relief.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 18, 2020

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) 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 ensure small businesses affected by the onset of communicable diseases are eligible for disaster relief.

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 Relief
5 From Communicable Disease Induced Economic Hardship
6 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ECONOMIC INJURY LOANS FOR COMMUNICABLE**
 2 **DISEASES.**

3 (a) DEFINITION OF A DISASTER.—Section 3(k)(2) of
 4 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(k)(2)) is amend-
 5 ed—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at
 7 the end;

8 (2) in subparagraph (C), striking the period
 9 and inserting “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(D) a communicable disease for which the
 12 Federal Government has issued a travel alert or
 13 travel warning.”.

14 (b) TERMS.—Section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business
 15 Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(2)) is amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
 17 at the end and inserting “; or”;

18 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(E) a disaster described in section
 21 3(k)(2)(D) for which the Federal Government
 22 has issued a public health emergency.”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following: “A loan
 24 made pursuant to a disaster described in subpara-
 25 graph (E) shall not require the payment of inter-
 26 est.”.

1 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
2 section shall apply to a communicable disease—

3 (1) for which the Federal Government issues a
4 travel alert or travel warning before, on, or after the
5 date of enactment of this Act; and

6 (2) the effects of which are experienced on or
7 after the date of enactment of this Act.

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