

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2126

To require the Small Business Administration to report on assistance provided to historically Black colleges or universities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 16, 2019

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To require the Small Business Administration to report on assistance provided to historically Black colleges or universities, 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 “Promoting Robust Op-
5 portunities for Minority Institutions and Strengthening
6 Entrepreneurship Act” or the “PROMISE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act—

1 (1) the terms “Administration” and “Adminis-
2 trator” mean the Small Business Administration
3 and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

4 (2) the term “historically Black college or uni-
5 versity” means a part B institution, as defined in
6 section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
7 (20 U.S.C. 1061); and

8 (3) the term “institution of higher education”
9 has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the
10 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

11 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SMALL BUSI-**
12 **NESS ADMINISTRATION ON HISTORICALLY**
13 **BLACK COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES.**

14 (a) ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PRO-
15 GRAMS.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.)
16 is amended—

17 (1) in section 21 (15 U.S.C. 648), by adding at
18 the end the following:

19 “(o) REPORT ON CENTERS AT HISTORICALLY BLACK
20 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

21 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection—

22 “(A) the term ‘historically Black college or
23 university’ means a part B institution, as de-
24 fined in section 322 of the Higher Education
25 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061); and

1 “(B) the term ‘lead small business develop-
2 ment center’ means a small business develop-
3 ment center described in section 21 that admin-
4 isters and operates a network of small business
5 development centers.

6 “(2) REPORT.—The Administrator shall annu-
7 ally prepare a report—

8 “(A) which the Administrator shall make
9 publicly available; and

10 “(B) that includes—

11 “(i) the number of small business de-
12 velopment centers and lead small business
13 development centers that are located at
14 historically Black colleges or universities;

15 “(ii) the number of women’s business
16 centers and Veteran Business Outreach
17 Centers that have partnerships with his-
18 torically Black colleges or universities;

19 “(iii) the number of hours of training
20 and education provided by a program over-
21 seen by the Office of Entrepreneurial De-
22 velopment of the Administration to stu-
23 dents and graduates of historically Black
24 colleges or universities;

1 “(iv) each strategic alliance memo-
2 randum entered into between the Adminis-
3 tration and a historically Black college or
4 university;

5 “(v) the steps taken to ensure that
6 each memorandum described in clause (iv)
7 is upheld;

8 “(vi) the steps taken to partner the
9 resources provided by the Service Corps of
10 Retired Executives program authorized by
11 section 8(b)(1) with students and grad-
12 uates of historically Black colleges or uni-
13 versities;

14 “(vii) for that year, the plan of the
15 Administration prepared in accordance
16 with section 2(c) of Executive Order 13779
17 (82 Fed. Reg. 12499; relating to pro-
18 moting excellence and innovation at his-
19 torically Black colleges and universities);

20 “(viii) the steps taken by the Adminis-
21 tration to ensure that the plan described in
22 clause (vii) is carried out; and

23 “(ix) the process by which a histori-
24 cally Black college or university may apply
25 for a grant awarded by a small business

1 development center, women’s business cen-
 2 ter, or Veteran Business Outreach Cen-
 3 ter.”; and

4 (2) in section 29(j)(2) (15 U.S.C. 656(j)(2))—

5 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking
 6 “and” at the end;

7 (B) in subparagraph (F), by striking the
 8 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(G) the number of historically Black col-
 11 leges or universities (as defined in section
 12 21(o)(1)) served by the women’s business cen-
 13 ter, and the hours of training provided to stu-
 14 dents and graduates of historically Black col-
 15 leges or universities.”.

16 (b) SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS
 17 AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVER-
 18 SITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
 19 ment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the
 20 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
 21 the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the
 22 House of Representatives a report that examines the num-
 23 ber and scope of programs of the Administration at his-
 24 torically Black colleges or universities, as compared with
 25 other institutions of higher education.

1 **SEC. 4. PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL**
2 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AT HISTORI-**
3 **CALLY BLACK COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES.**

4 The Administrator shall—

5 (1) on an annual basis, provide to each histori-
6 cally Black college or university a list of each intern-
7 ship or employment opportunity available at the Ad-
8 ministration;

9 (2) actively promote the programs and re-
10 sources of the Administration that would be helpful
11 for entrepreneurs who are students at, or graduates
12 of, historically Black colleges or universities;

13 (3) work to ensure that the Strategic Alliance
14 Memorandums between the Administration and his-
15 torically Black colleges or universities are enforced
16 by developing and executing a strategic plan that ac-
17 complishes the goals set forth in those memoran-
18 dums;

19 (4) conduct outreach to historically Black col-
20 leges or universities to provide awareness with re-
21 spect to resources, services, and opportunities pro-
22 vided by the Administration; and

23 (5) in order to enhance transparency, when de-
24 scribing the efforts of the Administration to
25 strengthen the capacity of historically Black colleges
26 or universities to participate in applicable Federal

1 programs and initiatives in each plan prepared
2 under section 2(c) of Executive Order 13779 (82
3 Fed. Reg. 12499; relating to promoting excellence
4 and innovation at historically Black colleges and uni-
5 versities), provide rationales for those efforts.

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