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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

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. OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE SMALL**
4 **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.**

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

7 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
8 lows:

1 “(b) APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-
2 TRATOR.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be admin-
4 istered by an Assistant Administrator, who shall be
5 appointed by the Administrator.

6 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Admin-
7 istrator shall—

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

11 “(B) have experience providing develop-
12 ment assistance to rural small business con-
13 cerns.”;

14 (2) in subsection (c)—

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

18 (B) in paragraph (3)—

19 (i) by striking “provide information”
20 and inserting “promote”; and

21 (ii) by striking “concerning the” and
22 all that follows through the semicolon at
23 the end and inserting the following: “poli-
24 cies and programs of the Administration
25 and of other Federal departments and

1 agencies for assisting rural small business
2 concerns;”;

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

5 (D) in paragraph (5)—

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

11 (ii) by striking “small businesses in
12 rural areas” and inserting “rural small
13 business concerns”;

14 (iii) by striking the period at the end
15 and inserting “; and”; and

16 (E) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

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

21 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 sections:

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

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

8 “(e) REPORT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
11 and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall sub-
12 mit to the Committee on Small Business of the
13 House of Representatives and the Committee on
14 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate,
15 and make publicly make available on a website of
16 the Administration, a report on the activities of the
17 Office during the one-year period immediately pre-
18 ceding the date of submission of the report.

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

21 “(A) The operational details of the Office,
22 including the name of the Assistant Adminis-
23 trator, the budget of the Office, and the num-
24 ber of full-time employees employed by or de-
25 tailed to the Office.

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

3 “(C) The number of webinars and out-
4 reach events conducted by the Office to promote
5 policies and programs described in paragraphs
6 (3) of subsection (c) and to provide information
7 described in (4) of such subsection.

8 “(D) An analysis of gaps in lending pro-
9 grams of the Administration in serving the
10 needs of rural small business concerns.

11 “(E) Information gathered from any
12 webinars and outreach events conducted by the
13 Office during the period covered by the report.

14 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term
16 ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-
17 ministrators of the Office of Rural Affairs appointed
18 under subsection (b).

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

21 “(A) small business development centers;

22 “(B) women’s business centers (described
23 under section 29);

1 “(C) chapters of the Service Corps of Re-
2 tired Executives (established under section
3 8(b)(1)(B)); and

4 “(D) Veteran Business Outreach Centers
5 (described under section 32).

6 “(3) RURAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The
7 term ‘rural small business concern’ has the meaning
8 given by the Assistant Administrator.”.