

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4148

To provide disaster relief to small businesses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CRIST, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide disaster relief to small businesses, 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 “Small Business Dis-
5 aster Relief Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DISASTER LOAN**
2 **PROCESSING.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator
4 of the Small Business Administration should use district
5 offices of the Administration whenever possible to expedite
6 the processing of disaster loans under section 7(b) of the
7 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)).

8 **SEC. 3. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PORT-**
9 **ABILITY GRANTS.**

10 Section 21(a)(4)(C)(viii) of the Small Business Act
11 (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(viii)) is amended—

12 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “as a re-
13 sult of a business or government facility down sizing
14 or closing, which has resulted in the loss of jobs or
15 small business instability” and inserting “due to
16 events that have resulted or will result in a business
17 or government facility downsizing or closing”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following: “At the
19 discretion of the Administrator, the Administrator
20 may make an award greater than \$100,000 to a re-
21 cipient to accommodate extraordinary occurrences
22 having a catastrophic impact on the small business
23 concerns in a community.”.

24 **SEC. 4. DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO CRITICAL ENTERPRISES.**

25 Section 237 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (15
26 U.S.C. 636d) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
2 section (c); and

3 (2) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
5 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency”;

6 (B) by striking “major disaster” and in-
7 serting “major disaster or is vital to recovery
8 efforts in the disaster area (including providing
9 debris removal services, manufactured housing,
10 gasoline, telecommunications, or building mate-
11 rials),”; and

12 (C) by striking “Loans authorized” and all
13 that follows through “pursuant thereto.” and
14 inserting the following:

15 “(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding
16 any other provision of law, loans authorized by this sec-
17 tion—

18 “(1) shall be made without regard to limitations
19 on the size of loans which may otherwise be imposed
20 by any other provision of law or regulations promul-
21 gated pursuant thereto; and

22 “(2) may waive any required evaluation of cred-
23 itworthiness in exchange for a fee, as set by the

- 1 Small Business Administration or the Farm Service
- 2 Agency, as applicable.”.

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