

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8844

To reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Evans introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, 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 “STEP Improvement
5 Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

7 (a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 22(1)(3)
8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(1)(3)) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in subparagraph (D)—

1 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “, including
2 a budget plan for use of funds awarded under
3 this subsection” before the period at the end;
4 and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following new
6 clause:

7 “(iii) TIMING.—The Associate Admin-
8 istrator shall—

9 “(I) publish information on how
10 to apply for a grant under this sub-
11 section, including specific calculations
12 and other determinations used to
13 award such a grant, not later than
14 March 31 of each year;

15 “(II) establish a deadline for the
16 submission of applications that is not
17 earlier than 60 days after the date on
18 which the information is published
19 under subclause (I) and that is not
20 later than May 31; and

21 “(III) announce grant recipients
22 not later than August 31 of each
23 year.”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
25 paragraphs:

1 “(E) APPLICATION INFORMATION.—The
2 Associate Administrator shall clearly commu-
3 nicate to applicants and grant recipients any in-
4 formation about State Trade Expansion Pro-
5 gram, including—

6 “(i) for each unsuccessful applicant
7 for a grant awarded under this subsection,
8 recommendations to improve a subsequent
9 application for such a grant; and

10 “(ii) for each successful applicant for
11 such a grant, an explanation for the
12 amount awarded, if different from the
13 amount requested in the application.

14 “(F) BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving
16 a grant under this subsection may revise
17 the budget plan of the State submitted
18 under subparagraph (D) after the dis-
19 bursal of grant funds if—

20 “(I) the revision complies with al-
21 lowable uses of grant funds under this
22 subsection; and

23 “(II) such State submits notifica-
24 tion of the revision to the Associate
25 Administrator.

1 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—If a revision under
2 clause (i) reallocates 10 percent or more of
3 the amounts described in the budget plan
4 of the State submitted under subparagraph
5 (D), the State may not implement the re-
6 vised budget plan without the approval of
7 the Associate Administrator, unless the As-
8 sociate Administrator fails to approve or
9 deny the revised plan within 20 days after
10 receipt of such revised plan.”.

11 (b) SURVEY.—Section 22(l) of the Small Business
12 Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through
14 (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;
15 and

16 (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
17 lowing new paragraph:

18 “(7) SURVEY.—The Associate Administrator
19 shall conduct an annual survey of each State that
20 received a grant under this subsection during the
21 preceding year to solicit feedback on the program
22 and develop best practices for grantees.”.

23 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 22(l)(8)(B) of the
24 Small Business Act, as redesignated by subsection (b), is
25 amended—

1 (1) in clause (i)—

2 (A) in subclause (III), by inserting “, in-
3 cluding the total number of eligible small busi-
4 ness concerns assisted by the program
5 (disaggregated by socially and economically dis-
6 advantaged small business concerns, small busi-
7 ness concerns owned and controlled by women,
8 and rural small business concerns)” before the
9 semicolon at the end;

10 (B) in subclause (IV), by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (C) in subclause (V)—

13 (i) by striking “description of best
14 practices” and inserting “detailed descrip-
15 tion of best practices”; and

16 (ii) by striking the period at the end
17 and inserting a semicolon; and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following new
19 subclauses:

20 “(VI) an analysis of the perform-
21 ance metrics described in clause (iii),
22 including a determination of whether
23 or not any goals relating to such per-
24 formance metrics were met, and an

1 analysis of the survey described in
2 paragraph (7); and

3 “(VII) a description of lessons
4 learned by grant recipients under this
5 subsection that may apply to other as-
6 sistance provided by the Administra-
7 tion.”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following new
9 clause:

10 “(iii) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—An-
11 nually, the Associate Administrator shall
12 collect data on eligible small business con-
13 cerns assisted by the program for the fol-
14 lowing performance metrics:

15 “(I) Total number of such con-
16 cerns, disaggregated by socially and
17 economically disadvantaged small
18 business concerns, small business con-
19 cerns owned and controlled by women,
20 and rural small business concerns.

21 “(II) Total dollar amount of ex-
22 port sales by eligible small business
23 concerns assisted by the program.

24 “(III) Number of such concerns
25 that have not previously participated

1 in an activity described in paragraph
2 (2).

3 “(IV) Number of such concerns
4 that, because of participation in the
5 program, have accessed a new market.

6 “(V) Number of such concerns
7 that, because of participation in the
8 program, have created new jobs.

9 “(VI) Number of such concerns
10 participating in foreign trade missions
11 or trade show exhibitions,
12 disaggregated by socially and eco-
13 nomically disadvantaged small busi-
14 ness concerns, small business concerns
15 owned and controlled by women, and
16 rural small business concerns.”.

17 (d) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE SMALL
18 BUSINESS CONCERN.—Section 22(l)(1)(A) of the Small
19 Business Act is amended—

20 (1) in clause (iii)(II), by adding “and” at the
21 end;

22 (2) by striking clause (iv); and

23 (3) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

24 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
25 22(l)(10) of the Small Business Act, as redesignated by

1 subsection (b), is amended by striking “fiscal years 2016
2 through 2020” and inserting “fiscal years 2023 through
3 2026”.

4 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Associate
6 Administrator for International Trade of the Small Busi-
7 ness Administration shall submit to Congress a report on
8 the State Trade Expansion Program established under
9 section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l))
10 that includes a description of—

11 (1) the process developed for review of revised
12 budget plans submitted under section 22(l)(3)(F) of
13 the Small Business Act, as added by this Act;

14 (2) any changes made to streamline the applica-
15 tion process to remove duplicative requirements and
16 create a more transparent process;

17 (3) the process developed to share best prac-
18 tices by States described in section 22(l)(8)(B)(i)(V)
19 (as redesignated by this Act), particularly for first-
20 time grant recipients under the State Trade Expans-
21 sion Program or grant recipients that are facing
22 problems using grant funds; and

23 (4) the process developed to communicate, both
24 verbally and in writing, relevant information about

- 1 the State Trade Expansion Program to all grant re-
- 2 cipients in a timely manner.