

## Union Calendar No. 390

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8844

[Report No. 117-542]

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

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. NEWMAN, and Mr. FLOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

OCTOBER 14, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Small Business; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

# **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(l)(3)  
8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)) is amend-  
9 ed—

10               (1) in subparagraph (D)—

11                       (A) in clause (i), by inserting “, including  
12 a budget plan for use of funds awarded under  
13 this subsection” before the period at the end;  
14 and

15                       (B) by adding at the end the following new  
16 clause:

17                               “(iii) TIMING.—The Associate Admin-  
18 istrator shall—

19                                       “(I) publish information on how  
20 to apply for a grant under this sub-  
21 section, including specific calculations  
22 and other determinations used to  
23 award such a grant, not later than  
24 March 31 of each year;

1 “(II) establish a deadline for the  
2 submission of applications that is not  
3 earlier than 60 days after the date on  
4 which the information is published  
5 under subclause (I) and that is not  
6 later than May 31; and

7 “(III) announce grant recipients  
8 not later than August 31 of each  
9 year.”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
11 paragraphs:

12 “(E) APPLICATION INFORMATION.—The  
13 Associate Administrator shall clearly commu-  
14 nicate to applicants and grant recipients any in-  
15 formation about State Trade Expansion Pro-  
16 gram, including—

17 “(i) for each unsuccessful applicant  
18 for a grant awarded under this subsection,  
19 recommendations to improve a subsequent  
20 application for such a grant; and

21 “(ii) for each successful applicant for  
22 such a grant, an explanation for the  
23 amount awarded, if different from the  
24 amount requested in the application.

25 “(F) BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving  
2           a grant under this subsection may revise  
3           the budget plan of the State submitted  
4           under subparagraph (D) after the dis-  
5           bursal of grant funds if—

6                   “(I) the revision complies with al-  
7                   lowable uses of grant funds under this  
8                   subsection; and

9                   “(II) such State submits notifica-  
10                  tion of the revision to the Associate  
11                  Administrator.

12           “(ii) EXCEPTION.—If a revision under  
13           clause (i) reallocates 10 percent or more of  
14           the amounts described in the budget plan  
15           of the State submitted under subparagraph  
16           (D), the State may not implement the re-  
17           vised budget plan without the approval of  
18           the Associate Administrator, unless the As-  
19           sociate Administrator fails to approve or  
20           deny the revised plan within 20 days after  
21           receipt of such revised plan.”.

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

1           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through  
2           (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;  
3           and

4           (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
5           lowing new paragraph:

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

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

14               (1) in clause (i)—

15                       (A) in subclause (III), by inserting “, in-  
16                       cluding the total number of eligible small busi-  
17                       ness concerns assisted by the program  
18                       (disaggregated by socially and economically dis-  
19                       advantaged small business concerns, small busi-  
20                       ness concerns owned and controlled by women,  
21                       and rural small business concerns)” before the  
22                       semicolon at the end;

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

25                       (C) in subclause (V)—

1 (i) by striking “description of best  
2 practices” and inserting “detailed descrip-  
3 tion of best practices”; and

4 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
5 and inserting a semicolon; and

6 (D) by adding at the end the following new  
7 subclauses:

8 “(VI) an analysis of the perform-  
9 ance metrics described in clause (iii),  
10 including a determination of whether  
11 or not any goals relating to such per-  
12 formance metrics were met, and an  
13 analysis of the survey described in  
14 paragraph (7); and

15 “(VII) a description of lessons  
16 learned by grant recipients under this  
17 subsection that may apply to other as-  
18 sistance provided by the Administra-  
19 tion.”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
21 clause:

22 “(iii) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—An-  
23 nually, the Associate Administrator shall  
24 collect data on eligible small business con-

1                   cerns assisted by the program for the fol-  
2                   lowing performance metrics:

3                   “(I) Total number of such con-  
4                   cerns, disaggregated by socially and  
5                   economically disadvantaged small  
6                   business concerns, small business con-  
7                   cerns owned and controlled by women,  
8                   and rural small business concerns.

9                   “(II) Total dollar amount of ex-  
10                  port sales by eligible small business  
11                  concerns assisted by the program.

12                  “(III) Number of such concerns  
13                  that have not previously participated  
14                  in an activity described in paragraph  
15                  (2).

16                  “(IV) Number of such concerns  
17                  that, because of participation in the  
18                  program, have accessed a new market.

19                  “(V) Number of such concerns  
20                  that, because of participation in the  
21                  program, have created new jobs.

22                  “(VI) Number of such concerns  
23                  participating in foreign trade missions  
24                  or trade show exhibitions,  
25                  disaggregated by socially and eco-



1                   nominally disadvantaged small busi-  
2                   ness concerns, small business concerns  
3                   owned and controlled by women, and  
4                   rural small business concerns.”.

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

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

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

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

12           (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
13 22(l)(10) of the Small Business Act, as redesignated by  
14 subsection (b), is amended by striking “fiscal years 2016  
15 through 2020” and inserting “fiscal years 2023 through  
16 2026”.

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

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

4           (2) any changes made to streamline the applica-  
5 tion process to remove duplicative requirements and  
6 create a more transparent process;

7           (3) the process developed to share best prac-  
8 tices by States described in section 22(1)(8)(B)(i)(V)  
9 (as redesignated by this Act), particularly for first-  
10 time grant recipients under the State Trade Expans-  
11 ion Program or grant recipients that are facing  
12 problems using grant funds; and

13           (4) the process developed to communicate, both  
14 verbally and in writing, relevant information about  
15 the State Trade Expansion Program to all grant re-  
16 cipients in a timely manner.



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