

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4549

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## AN ACT

To amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Office of Rural Affairs  
3 Enhancement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE SMALL BUSI-**  
5 **NESS ADMINISTRATION.**

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

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

10 “(b) APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-  
11 TRATOR.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be admin-  
13 istered by an Assistant Administrator, who shall be  
14 an employee in the competitive service.

15 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Admin-  
16 istrator shall—

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

20 “(B) have experience providing develop-  
21 ment assistance to rural small business con-  
22 cerns.”;

23 (2) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “small  
25 business concerns located in rural areas” and  
26 inserting “rural small business concerns”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3)—

2 (i) by striking “provide information”  
3 and inserting “promote”; and

4 (ii) by striking “concerning the” and  
5 all that follows through the semicolon at  
6 the end and inserting the following: “on  
7 the policies and programs of the Adminis-  
8 tration and of other Federal departments  
9 and agencies for assisting rural small busi-  
10 ness concerns;”;

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

13 (D) in paragraph (5)—

14 (i) by striking “the United States  
15 Tourism and Travel Administration” and  
16 inserting “the National Travel and Tour-  
17 ism Office of the Department of Com-  
18 merce”;

19 (ii) by striking “small businesses in  
20 rural areas” and inserting “rural small  
21 business concerns”; and

22 (iii) by striking the period at the end  
23 and inserting “; and”; and

24 (E) by adding at the end the following new  
25 paragraph:

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

4           (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
5 sections:

6           “(d) OUTREACH.—The Assistant Administrator  
7 shall—

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

11           “(2) invite representatives from district offices  
12 of the Administration, resource partners, Federal  
13 and State agencies, and other interested persons to  
14 participate in such webinars and outreach events.

15           “(e) REPORT.—

16           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
17 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,  
18 and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall sub-  
19 mit to the Committee on Small Business of the  
20 House of Representatives and the Committee on  
21 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate,  
22 and make publicly available on a website of the Ad-  
23 ministration, a report on the activities of the Office  
24 during the one-year period immediately preceding  
25 the date of submission of the report.

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

3           “(A) The operational details of the Office,  
4 including the name of the Assistant Adminis-  
5 trator, the budget of the Office, and the num-  
6 ber of full-time employees employed by or de-  
7 tailed to the Office.

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

10          “(C) The number of webinars and out-  
11 reach events conducted by the Administration  
12 to promote policies and programs described in  
13 paragraph (3) of subsection (c) and to provide  
14 information described in paragraph (4) of such  
15 subsection.

16          “(D) An analysis of the lending programs  
17 of the Administration in serving the needs of  
18 rural small business concerns.

19          “(E) Information gathered from any  
20 webinars and outreach events conducted by the  
21 Administration during the period covered by the  
22 report.

23          “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24           “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term  
25 ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-

1        administrator of the Office of Rural Affairs appointed  
2        under subsection (b).

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

5            “(A) small business development centers;

6            “(B) women’s business centers (described  
7        under section 29);

8            “(C) chapters of the Service Corps of Re-  
9        tired Executives (established under section  
10       8(b)(1)(B)); and

11           “(D) Veteran Business Outreach Centers  
12        (described under section 32).

13           “(3) RURAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The  
14        term ‘rural small business concern’ means a small  
15        business concern located in a rural area (as defined  
16        in section 7(b)(16) of this Act).”.

      Passed the House of Representatives December 1,  
2025.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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