

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4549

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2025

Ms. GOODLANDER (for herself, Mr. WIED, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

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## A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Office of Rural Affairs  
5 Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE SMALL BUSI-**  
7 **NESS ADMINISTRATION.**

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

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

3       “(b) APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-  
4       TRATOR.—

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

8           “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Admin-  
9       istrator shall—

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

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

16       (2) in subsection (c)—

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

20           (B) in paragraph (3)—

21           (i) by striking “provide information”  
22       and inserting “promote”; and

23           (ii) by striking “concerning the” and  
24       all that follows through the semicolon at  
25       the end and inserting the following: “on

1 the policies and programs of the Adminis-  
2 tration and of other Federal departments  
3 and agencies for assisting rural small busi-  
4 ness concerns;”;

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

7 (D) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

16 (iii) by striking the period at the end  
17 and inserting “; and”; and

18 (E) by adding at the end the following new  
19 paragraph:

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

23 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
24 sections:

1       “(d) OUTREACH.—The Assistant Administrator  
2 shall—

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

6               “(2) invite representatives from district offices  
7       of the Administration, resource partners, Federal  
8       and State agencies, and other interested persons to  
9       participate in such webinars and outreach events.

10       “(e) REPORT.—

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

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

23                       “(A) The operational details of the Office,  
24       including the name of the Assistant Adminis-  
25       trator, the budget of the Office, and the num-

1           ber of full-time employees employed by or de-  
2           tailed to the Office.

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

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

11          “(D) An analysis of the lending programs  
12          of the Administration in serving the needs of  
13          rural small business concerns.

14          “(E) Information gathered from any  
15          webinars and outreach events conducted by the  
16          Administration during the period covered by the  
17          report.

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

19                 “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term  
20                 ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-  
21                 ministrators of the Office of Rural Affairs appointed  
22                 under subsection (b).

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

25                         “(A) small business development centers;

1           “(B) women’s business centers (described  
2           under section 29);

3           “(C) chapters of the Service Corps of Re-  
4           tired Executives (established under section  
5           8(b)(1)(B)); and

6           “(D) Veteran Business Outreach Centers  
7           (described under section 32).

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

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