

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1048

To amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study for small business development centers and women’s business centers, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2025

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

---

## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study for small business development centers and women’s business centers, 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 “Connecting Small  
5 Businesses with Career and Technical Education Grad-  
6 uates Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDU-**  
2 **CATION.**

3 (a) DEFINITION.—Section 3 of the Small Business  
4 Act (15 U.S.C. 632) is amended by adding at the end the  
5 following:

6 “(gg) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The  
7 term ‘career and technical education’ has the meaning  
8 given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career  
9 and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).”.

10 (b) SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—  
11 Section 21(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
12 648(c)(3)) is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (T), by striking “and” at  
14 the end;

15 (2) in clause (v) of the first subparagraph (U)  
16 (relating to succession planning), by striking the pe-  
17 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;

18 (3) by redesignating the second subparagraph  
19 (U) (relating to training on domestic and inter-  
20 national intellectual property protections) as sub-  
21 paragraph (V);

22 (4) in subparagraph (V)(ii)(II), as so redesign-  
23 nated, by striking the period at the end and insert-  
24 ing a semicolon; and

25 (5) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(W) assisting small business concerns in  
2           hiring graduates from career and technical edu-  
3           cation programs or programs of study; and

4           “(X) assisting graduates of career and  
5           technical education programs or programs of  
6           study in starting up a small business concern.”.

7           (c) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS.—Section 29(b) of  
8 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended—

9           (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the  
10          end;

11          (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
12          the end and inserting a semicolon; and

13          (3) by adding at the end the following:

14           “(4) assistance for small business concerns to  
15           hire graduates from career and technical education  
16           programs or programs of study; and

17           “(5) assistance for graduates of career and  
18           technical education programs or programs of study  
19           to start up a small business concern.”.

○