

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance to support small businesses and business district revitalization in low-income, rural, and minority communities, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance to support small businesses and business district revitalization in low-income, rural, and minority communities, 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 “Revitalizing Small and  
5 Local Businesses Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REVITALIZING BUSINESS DISTRICTS PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and  
3 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et  
4 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 219. REVITALIZING BUSINESS DISTRICTS PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) NATIONAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—

8 The term ‘national nonprofit organization’ means a  
9 nonprofit organization that—

10 “(A) operates in each geographic area  
11 served by a regional office of the Economic De-  
12 velopment Administration; and

13 “(B) has experience and expertise in pro-  
14 viding technical assistance and capacity build-  
15 ing programs in support of community-based  
16 organizations that focus on revitalizing business  
17 districts and commercial corridors, including  
18 through support of underserved small busi-  
19 nesses.

20 “(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
21 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that  
22 is—

23 “(A) described in paragraph (3), (4), (5),  
24 or (6) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue  
25 Code of 1986; and

1                   “(B) exempt from taxation under section  
2                   501(a) of that Code.

3           “(b) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a na-  
4 tional program under which the Secretary shall award  
5 grants on a competitive basis to national nonprofit organi-  
6 zations to carry out place-based programs, in partnership  
7 with locally-based nonprofit or public community and eco-  
8 nomic development partners, to provide specialized tech-  
9 nical assistance, capacity building, and related services  
10 that support small businesses and business district revital-  
11 ization in low-income, rural, and minority communities.

12           “(c) APPLICATION.—A national nonprofit organiza-  
13 tion seeking a grant under this section shall submit an  
14 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,  
15 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-  
16 quire.

17           “(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—In order to receive a grant  
18 under this section, a national nonprofit organization shall  
19 demonstrate a track record of, and a strategy for, sup-  
20 porting local business district organizations or similar  
21 place-based business or economic development organiza-  
22 tions and serving disadvantaged businesses or commu-  
23 nities that are socially and economically disadvantaged, in-  
24 cluding rural communities.

1           “(e) PRIORITIZATION.—Notwithstanding section 206,  
2 in selecting grant recipients under this section, the Sec-  
3 retary shall give priority to an applicant—

4           “(1) that would serve communities that are so-  
5 cially and economically disadvantaged, including  
6 rural communities; and

7           “(2) that has the demonstrated capacity to  
8 serve multiple States, and multiple geographies with-  
9 in a State.

10          “(f) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry  
11 out this section through the headquarters office of the  
12 Economic Development Administration.

13          “(g) FEDERAL SHARE.—

14           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)  
15 and (3) and notwithstanding section 204 or any  
16 other provision of law, the Federal share of the cost  
17 of a project carried out with assistance under this  
18 section shall be not more than 80 percent.

19           “(2) USE OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—A  
20 grant recipient may use other Federal funds pro-  
21 vided to the grant recipient to increase the Federal  
22 share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent, as the  
23 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

24           “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may increase the  
25 Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 per-

1 cent if the Secretary determines that the grant re-  
2 cipient is unable to pay, or would experience signifi-  
3 cant financial hardship if required to pay, the non-  
4 Federal share.

5 “(h) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the amounts  
6 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year,  
7 the Secretary may use not more than 2 percent for the  
8 administrative costs of carrying out this section.

9 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
10 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary  
11 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026,  
12 to remain available until expended, to carry out this sec-  
13 tion.”.

14 (b) DIRECT EXPENDITURE OR REDISTRIBUTION BY  
15 RECIPIENT.—Section 217(a) of the Public Works and  
16 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3154c(a))  
17 is amended by striking “or 207” and inserting “207, or  
18 219”.