

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2448

To provide for the establishment of a Commission on the Advancement of  
Social Enterprise, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2017

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. MACARTHUR) introduced the following  
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government  
Reform

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## A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a Commission on the  
Advancement of Social Enterprise, 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 “Social Enterprise Eco-  
5 system and Economic Development Commission Act of  
6 2017” or as the “SEEED Commission Act of 2017”.

7 **SEC. 2. COMMISSION ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF SOCIAL**  
8 **ENTERPRISE.**

9 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a com-  
10 mission to be known as the Commission on the Advance-

1 ment of Social Enterprise (referred to in this section as  
2 the “Commission”). The purpose of the Commission is to  
3 examine and make recommendations with respect to ways  
4 the Federal Government can support and utilize the trans-  
5 formative power of social enterprises.

6 (b) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The  
7 Federal Advisory Committee Act does not apply to the  
8 Commission established under this section.

9 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the Commis-  
10 sion shall be composed of the following or their designees:

11 (1) The Administrator of the Small Business  
12 Administration.

13 (2) The Administrator of the Economic Devel-  
14 opment Administration.

15 (3) The Director of the Office of Social Innova-  
16 tion and Civic Participation.

17 (4) The Chief Executive Officer of the Corpora-  
18 tion for National and Community Service.

19 (5) The Assistant to the President for Domestic  
20 Policy.

21 (6) The Director of the Office of Management  
22 and Budget.

23 (7) The Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

24 (8) The Secretary of Labor.

25 (9) The Director of the Census.

1           (10) The Director of the National Economic  
2 Council.

3           (11) The Attorney General.

4           (12) The Secretary of State.

5           (13) The Secretary of Education.

6           (14) The Secretary of the Treasury.

7           (15) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
8 ices.

9           (16) The Commissioner of Social Security.

10          (17) The Secretary of Agriculture.

11          (18) The Secretary of Commerce.

12          (19) The Secretary of Housing and Urban De-  
13 velopment.

14          (20) The Chair of the Council of Economic Ad-  
15 visors.

16          (21) The Administrator of the General Services  
17 Administration.

18          (d) OPERATION.—

19            (1) CHAIRPERSON.—The Director of the Office  
20 of Social Innovation and Civic Participation shall  
21 serve as the Chairperson of the Commission.

22            (2) MEETINGS.—

23              (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
24 meet at the call of the Chairperson.

1           (B) INITIAL MEETING.—The initial meet-  
2           ing shall take place not later than 30 days after  
3           the date of enactment of this Act.

4           (3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of  
5           the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a  
6           lesser number of members may hold hearings.

7           (4) RULES.—The Commission may establish, by  
8           majority vote, any rules for the conduct of Commis-  
9           sion business, in accordance with this Act and other  
10          applicable law.

11         (e) DUTIES.—

12           (1) DEFINING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE.—Not later  
13          than 1 year after the initial meeting of the Commis-  
14          sion, the Commission shall establish criteria for  
15          identifying social enterprises for purposes of Federal  
16          programs. The Commission will draw upon existing  
17          leading research and scholarship in this area as well  
18          as the input of practitioners and policy experts with-  
19          in the social enterprise field.

20           (2) STUDY ACTIVITIES.—

21           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
22          identify opportunities for the Federal Govern-  
23          ment to more effectively engage social enter-  
24          prises in creating jobs and strengthening local  
25          economies while achieving optimal outcomes in

1 addressing policy challenges at the national,  
2 State, and local level. The Commission shall re-  
3 ceive and consider reports and testimony from  
4 individuals, government departments, State and  
5 local elected officials, community-based organi-  
6 zations, nonprofit organizations, faith-based or-  
7 ganizations, foundations, and other public and  
8 private organizations statewide and of national  
9 significance on the following:

10 (i) How social enterprise can accel-  
11 erate progress on social issues.

12 (ii) How social enterprises work in a  
13 cross-sector manner.

14 (iii) How social enterprise can ad-  
15 vance social and economic development  
16 goals.

17 (B) AREAS OF STUDY AND RECOMMENDA-  
18 TION.—The areas studied and potential rec-  
19 ommendations offered by the Commission under  
20 this paragraph shall include the following:

21 (i) The role of social enterprises in the  
22 United States economy.

23 (ii) The role of social enterprises in  
24 addressing economic, social, and environ-

1 mental policy challenges across all levels of  
2 government.

3 (iii) The role of social enterprises as  
4 community support and development enti-  
5 ties.

6 (iv) A statistical and qualitative exam-  
7 ination of social enterprise within the  
8 United States and its contribution to the  
9 social and economic development of the  
10 United States.

11 (v) Means through which the Federal  
12 Government can assist in enhancing the  
13 capacity of social enterprises.

14 (vi) Corporate legal structures that  
15 foster or impede the development of social  
16 enterprises.

17 (vii) How to reform the Internal Rev-  
18 enue Code to reduce obstacles that social  
19 enterprises face when addressing social  
20 issues and creating economic value through  
21 innovative methods.

22 (viii) How to reform Federal securi-  
23 ties laws to encourage impact investing.

1 (ix) How the Federal Government can  
2 leverage existing Community Development  
3 Financial Institutions programs.

4 (x) How various sectors (including but  
5 not limited to philanthropic, for-profit, and  
6 nonprofit sectors) and levels of government  
7 currently interact with social enterprises.

8 (xi) Review of the current process  
9 through which social enterprises—both for-  
10 profit and nonprofit organizations—can  
11 obtain Federal loans, grants, and contracts  
12 and offer recommendations for improving  
13 these processes in light of the special needs  
14 and contributions of social enterprises.

15 (xii) Review of the current process,  
16 policies, and procedures through which so-  
17 cial enterprises—both for-profit and non-  
18 profit organizations—can access Federal  
19 contracting opportunities and offer rec-  
20 ommendations for improving the access of  
21 social enterprises to Federal procurement  
22 opportunities.

23 (xiii) How the Federal Government  
24 can play a role in developing a purchasing  
25 directory of social enterprises within the

1 United States that can be supported by  
2 citizens, businesses, and government.

3 (xiv) Opportunities for the Federal  
4 Government to develop and expand re-  
5 search and the collection and analysis of  
6 longitudinal data on social enterprises.

7 (xv) Barriers to social enterprise  
8 growth.

9 (xvi) Opportunities for the develop-  
10 ment of an entity or initiative to support  
11 intermediaries that will promote and invest  
12 in social enterprise.

13 (xvii) Identification of the appropriate  
14 entity within the Federal Government that  
15 shall be charged with the responsibility of  
16 preparing an annual report to Congress on  
17 the impact of social enterprises in the  
18 United States and the extent to which the  
19 Federal Government interacts with, sup-  
20 ports, and invests in social enterprises.  
21 And, where appropriate, this entity shall  
22 monitor and update the areas of study list-  
23 ed in this subparagraph.

24 (f) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—



1           (1) The Commission may hold such hearings  
2           and collect such information as appropriate for car-  
3           rying out this section.

4           (2) Except as otherwise prohibited by law, the  
5           Commission may secure directly from any Federal  
6           department or agency information the Commission  
7           considers necessary to carry out this section. Upon  
8           the request of the Commission, the head of the any  
9           Federal agency shall furnish information requested  
10          under this paragraph to the Commission.

11          (3) The Commission may enter into contracts  
12          for research to inform the deliberations of the Com-  
13          mission.

14          (4) The Commission may use the United States  
15          mails in the same manner and under the same con-  
16          ditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

17          (g) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

18          (1) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—On the  
19          affirmative vote of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the members of the Com-  
20          mission and the approval of the appropriate Federal  
21          agency head, an employee of the Federal Govern-  
22          ment at GS-13 level or higher may be detailed to  
23          the Commission without reimbursement, and such  
24          detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil  
25          service status, benefits, or privileges.

1 (2) STAFF.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—

3 (i) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSA-  
4 TION.—The chairperson, in accordance  
5 with rules agreed upon by the Commission,  
6 may appoint and fix the compensation of a  
7 staff director and such other personnel as  
8 may be necessary to enable the Commis-  
9 sion to carry out its functions, without re-  
10 gard to the provisions of title 5, United  
11 States Code, governing appointments in  
12 the competitive service, and without regard  
13 to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-  
14 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title re-  
15 lating to classification and General Sched-  
16 ule pay rates, except that no rate of pay  
17 fixed under this subsection may exceed the  
18 equivalent of that payable for a position at  
19 Level V of the Executive Schedule under  
20 section 5316 of title 5, United States  
21 Code.

22 (ii) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EM-  
23 PLOYEES.—

24 (I) IN GENERAL.—Any personnel  
25 of the Commission who are employees

1 shall be employees under section 2105  
2 of title 5, United States Code, for  
3 purposes of chapters 63, 81, 83, 84,  
4 85, 87, 89, and 90 of that title.

5 (II) MEMBERS OF THE COMMIS-  
6 SION.—Subparagraph (I) shall not be  
7 construed to apply to members of the  
8 Commission.

9 (B) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Notwith-  
10 standing section 1342 of title 31, United States  
11 Code, the Commission may accept and use vol-  
12 untary and uncompensated services as the Com-  
13 mission determines necessary.

14 (h) CONTRACTS FOR RESEARCH.—

15 (1) RESEARCHERS AND EXPERTS.—On an af-  
16 firmative vote of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the members of the Commis-  
17 sion, the Commission may select nongovernmental  
18 researchers and experts to assist the Commission in  
19 carrying out the duties of the Commission under this  
20 section.

21 (2) OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.—Nothing in this  
22 subsection limits the ability of the Commission to  
23 enter into contracts with any other entity or organi-  
24 zation to carry out research necessary to carry out  
25 the duties of the Commission under this section.

1 (i) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the Com-  
2 mission establishes criteria by which to identify social en-  
3 terprise, the Commission shall submit to the President and  
4 Congress a report on the Commission’s findings, conclu-  
5 sions, and recommendations. The report shall identify the  
6 Federal programs recommended and shall include—

7 (1) reports on all matters studied as described  
8 in subsection (e); and

9 (2) how existing Federal Government programs  
10 can be expanded to take advantage of the social and  
11 economic benefits of social enterprises.

12 (j) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
13 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits  
14 the report of the Commission under subsection (i).

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