

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4956

To establish a program to support the participation of small businesses in meetings and proceedings of global standards organizations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 2021

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida (for himself, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. CROW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To establish a program to support the participation of small businesses in meetings and proceedings of global standards organizations, 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 “Leadership in Global
5 Tech Standards Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN GLOB-**
7 **AL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS.**

8 (a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Small Busi-
3 ness Administration.

4 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
5 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” means the following:

7 (A) The Committee on Science, Space, and
8 Technology of the House of Representatives.

9 (B) The Committee on Commerce, Science,
10 and Transportation of the Senate.

11 (C) The Committee on Energy and Com-
12 merce of the House of Representatives.

13 (D) The Committee on Energy and Nat-
14 ural Resources of the Senate.

15 (E) The Committee on Small Business of
16 the House of Representatives.

17 (F) The Committee on Small Business and
18 Entrepreneurship of the Senate.

19 (3) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-
20 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term
21 in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National
22 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10
23 U.S.C. 2358 note).

24 (4) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
25 tity” means a small business concern that is incor-

1 porated and maintains a primary place of business
2 in the United States.

3 (5) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
4 “small business concern” has the meaning given the
5 term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15
6 U.S.C. 632).

7 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
9 establish a program to support participation by covered
10 entities in meetings and proceedings of standards develop-
11 ment organizations in the development of voluntary tech-
12 nical standards.

13 (c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the program estab-
14 lished under subsection (a), the Administrator shall award
15 competitive, merit-reviewed grants to covered entities to
16 cover the reasonable costs, up to a specified ceiling, of par-
17 ticipation of employees of those covered entities in meet-
18 ings and proceedings of standards development organiza-
19 tions, including—

- 20 (1) regularly attending meetings;
- 21 (2) contributing expertise and research;
- 22 (3) proposing new work items; and
- 23 (4) volunteering for leadership roles such as a
24 convener or editor.

1 (d) AWARD CRITERIA.—The Administrator may only
2 provide a grant under this section to a covered entity
3 that—

4 (1) demonstrates deep technical expertise in key
5 emerging technologies and technical standards, in-
6 cluding artificial intelligence and related tech-
7 nologies;

8 (2) commits personnel with such expertise to
9 regular participation in global bodies responsible for
10 developing standards for such technologies over the
11 period of the grant;

12 (3) agrees to participate in efforts to coordinate
13 between the Federal Government and industry to en-
14 sure protection of national security interests in the
15 setting of global standards so long as such standards
16 are not dictated by the Federal Government; and

17 (4) provides a plan to the Administrator that
18 details the relationship between the activities de-
19 scribed in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and the pro-
20 posed standards to be adopted.

21 (e) NO MATCHING CONTRIBUTION.—A recipient of
22 an award under this section shall not be required to pro-
23 vide a matching contribution.

24 (f) EVALUATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In making awards under
2 this section, the Administrator shall coordinate with
3 the Director of the National Institute of Standards
4 and Technology, who shall provide support in the as-
5 sessment of technical expertise in emerging tech-
6 nologies and standards setting needs.

7 (2) PANEL RANKING.—In carrying out the re-
8 quirements under paragraph (1), the Administrator
9 and the Director shall jointly establish a panel of ex-
10 perts to rank the proposed standards, based on
11 merit and relevance, to be composed of experts
12 from—

13 (A) private industry;

14 (B) non-profit institutions;

15 (C) non-profit standards development orga-
16 nizations;

17 (D) academia; and

18 (E) the Federal Government.

19 (g) REPORT.—Not less than annually, the Adminis-
20 trator shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees a report on—

22 (1) the efficacy of the program;

23 (2) an explanation of any standard adopted as
24 a result of the program;

1 (3) any challenges faced in carrying out the
2 program; and

3 (4) proposed solutions to the challenges identi-
4 fied in paragraph (3).

5 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2022 and
7 each fiscal year thereafter \$1,000,000 to carry out the
8 program established under this section.

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