

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7281

To assist entrepreneurs and support development of the creative economy,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To assist entrepreneurs and support development of the
creative economy, 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 “Comprehensive Re-
5 sources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the
6 Economy Act of 2024” or the “CREATE Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) MICROLOAN PROGRAM EXTENSION.—Section
3 7(m)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(6))
4 is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(F) LOAN CRITERIA FOR ARTISTS AND
6 ARTS ENTREPRENEURS.—The Administration,
7 in consultation with eligible intermediaries,
8 shall develop loan criteria to ensure that small
9 business concerns owned and controlled by art-
10 ists and small business concerns that support
11 the creative economy receive loan proceeds
12 under this subsection.”.

13 (b) BUSINESS LOANS FOR THE CREATIVE ECON-
14 OMY.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
15 636(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(38) CREATIVE ECONOMY.—In providing as-
17 sistance under this subsection, the Administration
18 shall develop procedures to evaluate the business
19 proposals and business plans of non-employer busi-
20 nesses, microenterprises, and small business con-
21 cerns that focus on economic development, job cre-
22 ation, and community growth with respect to the
23 creative economy.”.

24 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Section 21
25 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648) is amended
26 by adding at the end the following:

1 “(p) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR ART-
 2 ISTS AND ARTS ENTREPRENEURS.—The Administration,
 3 in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall develop
 4 technical assistance programs to be carried out by small
 5 business development centers under this subsection that
 6 target the specific needs of artists and arts entre-
 7 preneurs.”.

8 **SEC. 3. ARTS-FOCUSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

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

12 **“SEC. 219. ARTS-FOCUSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) BUSINESS INCUBATION PROGRAM.—The
 15 term ‘business incubation program’ means a pro-
 16 gram that—

17 “(A) accelerates the successful develop-
 18 ment of entrepreneurial businesses through
 19 business support resources and services, devel-
 20 oped or orchestrated by incubator management;

21 “(B) is designed to produce successful
 22 businesses; and

23 “(C) provides management guidance, tech-
 24 nical assistance, and consulting designed for

1 young, growing businesses, including by pro-
2 viding—

3 “(i) rental space and flexible leases;

4 “(ii) shared basic business services
5 and equipment;

6 “(iii) technology support services; and

7 “(iv) assistance in obtaining financing
8 necessary for growth of the business.

9 “(2) INCUBATOR.—The term ‘incubator’ means
10 a multitenant facility with on-site management that
11 directs a business incubation program.

12 “(b) ARTS-FOCUSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—In
13 providing grants and assistance under this Act (including
14 through the local technical assistance, partnership plan-
15 ning, and comprehensive economic development strategies
16 programs of the Economic Development Administration),
17 the Secretary shall provide to State, regional, and local
18 arts agencies, artists, and creative workers support
19 through traditional economic development tools, includ-
20 ing—

21 “(1) incubators; and

22 “(2) economic development planning and tech-
23 nical assistance, including assistance for State, re-
24 gional, and local arts agencies in work related to
25 comprehensive economic development strategies.”.

1 **SEC. 4. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO PROMOTE USE OF**
2 **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS**
3 **IN CERTAIN ECONOMIC PLANNING.**

4 Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall establish a
6 demonstration program to assess the feasibility and advis-
7 ability of providing support to local arts agencies and non-
8 profits through planning grants under section 203 of the
9 Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
10 U.S.C. 3143) and local technical assistance grants under
11 section 207 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3147) to promote the
12 use of creative industries and occupations in the economic
13 planning of local governments, including in comprehensive
14 economic development strategies.

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