

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9166

To require the Small Business Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority to enter into an agreement to carry out activities to expand rural entrepreneurship, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Financial Services, 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 require the Small Business Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority to enter into an agreement to carry out activities to expand rural entrepreneurship, 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 “Rural Innovation and
5 Small Business Expansion Act” or the “RISE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO EXPAND**
2 **RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL**
3 **BUSINESS WITHIN APPALACHIA AND DELTA**
4 **AREA.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
7 the Small Business Administration, the appropriate head
8 of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the appro-
9 priate head of the Delta Regional Authority (in this sec-
10 tion referred to as the “covered officials”) shall enter into
11 a memorandum of understanding or other appropriate
12 agreement to carry out activities within the Appalachian
13 region and the Delta region, as applicable, to expand rural
14 entrepreneurship and to support small business concerns.

15 (b) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR AGREE-**
16 **MENT.**—The covered officials shall carry out and coordi-
17 nate the activities described in subsection (a) by entering
18 into one or more memoranda of understanding or other
19 appropriate agreements, as jointly determined by the cov-
20 ered officials.

21 (c) **INCLUSION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.**—In
22 carrying out the activities described in subsection (a), the
23 covered officials shall ensure the inclusion of small busi-
24 ness concerns in such activities, as appropriate.

1 (d) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the ac-
2 tivities described in subsection (a), the covered officials
3 may—

4 (1) carry out reimbursable agreements between
5 the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Re-
6 gional Authority, the Small Business Administra-
7 tion, and other appropriate entities in order to maxi-
8 mize the effectiveness of activities carried out pursu-
9 ant to a memorandum or agreement described in
10 subsection (b); and

11 (2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as
12 appropriate to carry out such activities.

13 (e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
14 of enactment of this Act, the covered officials shall jointly
15 submit to Congress a report on activities carried out pur-
16 suant to a memorandum or agreement described in sub-
17 section (b) that includes the following:

18 (1) Coordination between the covered officials
19 involved in such activities.

20 (2) Potential opportunities to expand the capac-
21 ity of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta
22 Regional Authority, and the Small Business Admin-
23 istration to provide assistance to rural entrepreneurs
24 or small business concerns located within the Appa-
25 lachian region or Delta region, as applicable.

1 (3) Number of rural entrepreneurs or small
2 business concerns assisted through activities carried
3 out pursuant to such memorandum or agreement.

4 (4) Areas of future collaboration among the
5 covered officials for the benefit of rural entre-
6 preneurs or small business concerns located within
7 the Appalachian region or Delta region, as applica-
8 ble.

9 (5) Plans of the covered officials to continue co-
10 ordination on activities described in subsection (a).

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

12 (1) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.—
13 The term “Appalachian Regional Commission”
14 means the commission established by section
15 14301(a) of title 40, United States Code.

16 (2) DELTA REGION.—The term “Delta region”
17 has the meaning given the term “region” in section
18 382A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
19 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa).

20 (3) DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY.—The term
21 “Delta Regional Authority” means the entity estab-
22 lished under subtitle F of the Consolidated Farm
23 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et
24 seq.).

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

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