

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9797

To require Federal agencies with an SBIR or STTR program to enhance their outreach to rural communities with respect to such programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. ALFORD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 Federal agencies with an SBIR or STTR program to enhance their outreach to rural communities with respect to such programs, 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 Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SBIR AND STTR PROGRAM RURAL COMMUNITY**
2 **OUTREACH.**

3 Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (j), by adding at the end the
6 following new paragraph:

7 “(5) MODIFICATION RELATING TO RURAL OUT-
8 REACH.—Not later than 90 days after the date of
9 the enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator
10 shall modify the policy directives issued pursuant to
11 this subsection to require each Federal agency par-
12 ticipating in the SBIR program to enhance the out-
13 reach efforts of such Federal agency to rural com-
14 munities to increase the participation of small busi-
15 ness concerns located in rural communities in the
16 SBIR program, including by ensuring that such
17 Federal agency conducts outreach efforts with re-
18 spect to the SBIR program in rural communities.”;
19 and

20 (2) in subsection (p), by adding at the end the
21 following new paragraph:

22 “(4) MODIFICATION RELATING TO RURAL OUT-
23 REACH.—Not later than 90 days after the date of
24 the enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator
25 shall modify the policy directives issued pursuant to
26 this subsection to require each Federal agency par-

1 participating in the STTR program to enhance the out-
2 reach efforts of such Federal agency to rural com-
3 munities to increase the participation of small busi-
4 ness concerns located in rural communities in the
5 STTR program, including by ensuring that such
6 Federal agency conducts outreach efforts with re-
7 spect to the STTR program in rural communities.”.

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