

# Calendar No. 170

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2099

To establish an Office of Community Financial Institutions within the Small Business Administration that will strengthen the ability of Community Financial Institutions to support the development of small business concerns in underserved communities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2023

Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

JULY 25, 2023

Reported by Mr. CARDIN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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## A BILL

To establish an Office of Community Financial Institutions within the Small Business Administration that will strengthen the ability of Community Financial Institutions to support the development of small business concerns in underserved communities, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Commu-  
3 nity Lenders Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

5 Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636)  
6 is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(a) OFFICE OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITU-  
8 TIONS.—

9 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

10 “(A) the term ‘Associate Administrator’  
11 means the Associate Administrator of the Office  
12 of Capital Access of the Administration;

13 “(B) the term ‘community financial insti-  
14 tution’ has the meaning given the term in para-  
15 graph (36); and

16 “(C) the term ‘Director’ means the Direc-  
17 tor of the Office of Community Financial Insti-  
18 tutions.

19 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established  
20 within the Administration the Office of Community  
21 Financial Institutions, which shall be—

22 “(A) under the general management and  
23 oversight of the Administration; and

24 “(B) responsible for the planning; coordi-  
25 nation; implementation; evaluation; and im-  
26 provement of the efforts of the Administrator to

1 enhance the performance of community finan-  
2 cial institutions and support access to capital  
3 for small business concerns.

4 “(3) DIRECTOR.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
6 days after the date of enactment of the Sup-  
7 porting Community Lenders Act, the Adminis-  
8 trator shall appoint a Director of the Office of  
9 Community Financial Institutions, who shall—

10 “(i) supervise the Office of Commu-  
11 nity Financial Institutions and report to  
12 the Associate Administrator;

13 “(ii) be in the Senior Executive Serv-  
14 ice; and

15 “(iii) have knowledge of community fi-  
16 nancial institutions and experience pro-  
17 viding access to capital to small business  
18 concerns in underserved communities.

19 “(B) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

20 “(i) create and implement strategies  
21 and programs that support the activities,  
22 development, and growth of community fi-  
23 nancial institutions;

24 “(ii) administer and manage outreach,  
25 technical support, and training programs

1 to existing, and potential, community fi-  
2 nancial institutions;

3 “(iii) establish partnerships within the  
4 Administration and with relevant Federal  
5 agencies, including the Department of the  
6 Treasury, the Federal Deposit Insurance  
7 Corporation, the Department of Agri-  
8 culture, and the Minority Business Devel-  
9 opment Agency, to advance the goal of  
10 supporting the economic success of small  
11 business concerns through community fi-  
12 nancial institutions;

13 “(iv) review the effectiveness and im-  
14 pact of community financial institutions;

15 “(v) when appropriate, advocate on  
16 behalf of community financial institutions  
17 within the Administration, and to outside  
18 organizations, including other relevant  
19 Federal agencies;

20 “(vi) hold public meetings with rel-  
21 evant stakeholders not less frequently than  
22 once every 6 months beginning 1 year after  
23 the date of enactment of the Supporting  
24 Community Lenders Act; and

1           “(vii) not later than 3 years after the  
2           date of enactment of the Supporting Com-  
3           munity Lenders Act, and not less fre-  
4           quently than once every 3 years thereafter,  
5           submit to Congress a report on the major  
6           activities of the Office of Community Fi-  
7           nancial Institutions, recommendations for  
8           congressional action based on the expertise  
9           of the Office, and areas for growth within  
10          the Office.

11          “(C) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the  
12          duties under this paragraph, the Director shall  
13          consult with—

14                 “(i) district offices of the Administra-  
15                 tion; and

16                 “(ii) other relevant Federal agencies,  
17                 including the Department of the Treasury,  
18                 the Federal Deposit Insurance Corpora-  
19                 tion, and the Minority Business Develop-  
20                 ment Agency.”.

21   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

22           *This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Community*  
23   *Lenders Act”.*

1 **SEC. 2. COORDINATOR FOR COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTI-**  
 2 **TUTIONS.**

3 *Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636)*  
 4 *is amended by adding at the end the following:*

5 “(o) **COORDINATOR FOR COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTI-**  
 6 **TUTIONS.**—

7 “(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—*In this subsection—*

8 “(A) *the term ‘Associate Administrator’*  
 9 *means the Associate Administrator of the Office*  
 10 *of Capital Access of the Administration;*

11 “(B) *the term ‘community financial institu-*  
 12 *tion’ has the meaning given the term in para-*  
 13 *graph (36); and*

14 “(C) *the term ‘Coordinator’ means the Coor-*  
 15 *dinator for Community Financial Institutions.*

16 “(2) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—*There is established*  
 17 *within the Office of Capital Access of the Administra-*  
 18 *tion the position of Coordinator for Community Fi-*  
 19 *nancial Institutions, the occupant of which shall be*  
 20 *responsible for the planning, coordination, implemen-*  
 21 *tation, evaluation, and improvement of the efforts of*  
 22 *the Administrator to enhance the performance of com-*  
 23 *munity financial institutions and support access to*  
 24 *capital for small business concerns.*

25 “(3) **COORDINATOR.**—

1           “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180  
2           *days after the date of enactment of the Sup-*  
3           *porting Community Lenders Act, the Adminis-*  
4           *trator shall designate an individual to serve as*  
5           *Coordinator, who shall—*

6                     “(i) *report to the Associate Adminis-*  
7                     *trator; and*

8                     “(ii) *have knowledge of community fi-*  
9                     *ancial institutions and experience pro-*  
10                    *viding access to capital to small business*  
11                    *concerns in underserved communities.*

12           “(B) *DUTIES.*—*The Coordinator shall—*

13                    “(i) *create and implement strategies*  
14                    *and programs that support the activities,*  
15                    *development, and growth of community fi-*  
16                    *ancial institutions;*

17                    “(ii) *administer and manage outreach,*  
18                    *technical support, and training programs to*  
19                    *existing, and potential, community finan-*  
20                    *cial institutions;*

21                    “(iii) *establish partnerships within the*  
22                    *Administration and with relevant Federal*  
23                    *agencies, including the Department of the*  
24                    *Treasury, the Federal Deposit Insurance*  
25                    *Corporation, the Department of Agriculture,*

1           *and the Minority Business Development*  
2           *Agency, to advance the goal of supporting*  
3           *the economic success of small business con-*  
4           *cerns through community financial institu-*  
5           *tions;*

6           “(iv) *review the effectiveness and im-*  
7           *act of community financial institutions;*

8           “(v) *when appropriate, advocate on be-*  
9           *half of community financial institutions*  
10          *within the Administration, and to outside*  
11          *organizations, including other relevant Fed-*  
12          *eral agencies;*

13          “(vi) *hold public meetings with rel-*  
14          *evant stakeholders not less frequently than*  
15          *once every 6 months beginning 1 year after*  
16          *the date of enactment of the Supporting*  
17          *Community Lenders Act; and*

18          “(vii) *not later than 3 years after the*  
19          *date of enactment of the Supporting Com-*  
20          *munity Lenders Act, and not less frequently*  
21          *than once every 3 years thereafter, submit*  
22          *to Congress a report on the major activities*  
23          *of the Coordinator, recommendations for*  
24          *congressional action based on the expertise*  
25          *of the Coordinator, and potential for growth*



1                   *within the areas in which the Coordinator*  
2                   *operates.*

3                   “(C) *CONSULTATION.*—*In carrying out the*  
4                   *duties under this paragraph, the Coordinator*  
5                   *shall consult with—*

6                   “*(i) district offices of the Administra-*  
7                   *tion; and*

8                   “*(ii) other relevant Federal agencies,*  
9                   *including the Department of the Treasury,*  
10                  *the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation,*  
11                  *and the Minority Business Development*  
12                  *Agency.”.*

13   ***SEC. 3. OFFICE OF ADVOCACY EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY FOR***  
14                   ***FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.***

15                  *The Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business*  
16                  *Administration shall immediately notify the Committee on*  
17                  *Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and*  
18                  *the Committee on Small Business of the House of Represent-*  
19                  *atives if, at any point, an employee, including a contracted*  
20                  *employee, of the Office of Advocacy who has been employed*  
21                  *at the Office of Advocacy for more than 1 year is not eligible*  
22                  *for paid leave under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5,*  
23                  *United States Code.*

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To establish an Office of Community Financial Institutions within the Small Business Administration that will strengthen the ability of Community Financial Institutions to support the development of small business concerns in underserved communities, and for other purposes.

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Reported with an amendment