

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3375

To establish a program so that business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Mr. PADILLA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish a program so that business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, 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 “Accelerating Small
5 Business Growth Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCELERATING BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Transportation.

3 (2) SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVAN-
4 TAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “socially and eco-
5 nomicallly disadvantaged individuals” has the mean-
6 ing given the term in section 11101(e)(2) of the In-
7 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C.
8 101 note; Public Law 117–58).

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
10 a competitive grant program to provide financial assist-
11 ance to eligible entities to establish and carry out innova-
12 tive programs so that business concerns owned and con-
13 trolled by socially and economically disadvantaged individ-
14 uals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal
15 basis, for contracts and subcontracts in projects carried
16 out with financial assistance from the Secretary.

17 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
18 ceive financial assistance under this section is—

19 (1) a State or territory;

20 (2) a political subdivision of a State or local
21 government;

22 (3) a Tribal government;

23 (4) a special purpose district or public authority
24 with a transportation function;

25 (5) a port authority;

1 (6) a metropolitan planning organization; or

2 (7) a group of entities described in paragraphs

3 (1) through (6).

4 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to participate in
5 the program under this section, an eligible entity shall
6 submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
7 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
8 retary may require.

9 (e) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out activities with
10 a grant under this section, an eligible entity may partner
11 with—

12 (1) 1 or more nonprofit organizations; or

13 (2) 1 or more institutions of higher education.

14 (f) REQUIRED REPORT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
16 an eligible entity is awarded a grant under this sec-
17 tion, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
18 a report that includes—

19 (A) a description of the activities carried
20 out with the grant; and

21 (B) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
22 those activities in meeting the objectives de-
23 scribed in subsection (b).

24 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each report sub-
25 mitted under paragraph (1) shall be made available

1 on a public internet website managed by the Sec-
2 retary.

3 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
5 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
6 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
7 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
8 Senate a report that evaluates the program under this sec-
9 tion.

10 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

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