

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5332

To appropriate amounts to the Disaster Loans Program Account, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Ms. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To appropriate amounts to the Disaster Loans Program Account, 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 “Restoring an Economic
5 Lifeline with Immediate Emergency Funding Act” or the
6 “RELIEF Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER LOANS.**

8 (a) DIRECT APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out
2 of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
3 priated, for an additional amount for “Disaster
4 Loans Program Account” for fiscal year 2025 for
5 the cost of direct loans authorized by section 7(b) of
6 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)),
7 \$810,000,000, to remain available until expended, of
8 which—

9 (A) \$10,000,000 shall be transferred to
10 “Office of Inspector General” for audits and re-
11 views of disaster loans and the disaster loan
12 programs; and

13 (B) \$250,000,000 may be transferred to
14 “Salaries and Expenses” for administrative ex-
15 penses to carry out the disaster loan program
16 authorized by such section 7(b).

17 (2) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds appro-
18 priated under paragraph (1) may be used for indi-
19 rect administrative expenses.

20 (3) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided
22 by this subsection are designated as an emer-
23 gency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of
24 the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2
25 U.S.C. 933(g)).

1 (B) DESIGNATION IN HOUSE AND SEN-
2 ATE.—This subsection is designated as being
3 for an emergency requirement pursuant to sec-
4 tion 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Con-
5 gress), the concurrent resolution on the budget
6 for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation estab-
7 lishing fiscal year 2025 budget enforcement in
8 the House of Representatives.

9 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—

10 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

11 (A) the terms “Administration” and “Ad-
12 ministrator” mean the Small Business Adminis-
13 tration and the Administrator thereof, respec-
14 tively;

15 (B) the term “appropriate committees of
16 Congress” means the Committee on Small
17 Business and Entrepreneurship and the Com-
18 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the
19 Committee on Small Business and the Com-
20 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives;

22 (C) the term “covered amounts” means
23 amounts made available for the cost of direct
24 loans authorized by section 7(b) of the Small
25 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

1 (D) the term “Inspector General” means
2 the Inspector General of the Administration.

3 (2) REVIEW.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General
5 shall conduct a review of the circumstances and
6 the underlying causes surrounding the funding
7 shortfall with respect to covered amounts, as
8 described in the letter from President Joseph
9 R. Biden, Jr. entitled “Letter to Congress on
10 Disaster Needs”, dated October 4, 2024, and
11 the letter from the Administrator submitted to
12 the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Com-
13 mittees on Appropriations of the Senate and
14 the House of Representatives, dated October
15 10, 2024.

16 (B) CONTENTS.—The review conducted
17 under subparagraph (A) shall include, with re-
18 spect to the funding shortfall described in that
19 subparagraph—

20 (i) a comparison of monthly obliga-
21 tions of covered amounts against projected
22 obligations of covered amounts;

23 (ii) an analysis of the accuracy of pro-
24 jections and estimates related to projected
25 obligations of covered amounts;

1 (iii) the identification and description
2 of any internal controls in place to manage
3 covered amounts;

4 (iv) the identification of actions that
5 the Administration can take to improve the
6 accuracy of information submitted by the
7 President under section 1105(a) of title
8 31, United States Code, with respect to the
9 Administration, prevent any future funding
10 shortfall with respect to any account of the
11 Administration, and improve the report
12 submitted to the appropriate committees of
13 Congress under section 12091(a) of the
14 Small Business Disaster Response and
15 Loan Improvements Act of 2008 (15
16 U.S.C. 636k(a)); and

17 (v) any other matter determined rel-
18 evant by the Inspector General.

19 (C) REPORT ON FINDINGS.—Not later
20 than 180 days after the date of enactment of
21 this Act, the Inspector General shall submit to
22 the appropriate committees of Congress a re-
23 port that contains the findings of the review
24 conducted under subparagraph (A).

1 (3) REPORTS ON CORRECTIONS.—The Adminis-
2 trator shall submit to the appropriate committees of
3 Congress—

4 (A) not later than 30 days after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, a report detailing cor-
6 rections the Administration will make to im-
7 prove forecasting, data quality, and budget as-
8 sumptions relating to budget submissions relat-
9 ing to amounts made available for the cost of
10 direct loans authorized by section 7(b) of the
11 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

12 (B) not later than 90 days after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days
14 thereafter until the date that is 90 days after
15 the date on which all the corrections described
16 in subparagraph (A) have been implemented, a
17 report—

18 (i) detailing the actions the Adminis-
19 tration has taken to implement the correc-
20 tions described in subparagraph (A); and

21 (ii) explaining how each action de-
22 tailed under clause (i) is directly related to
23 implementing 1 or more corrections de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (A).

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