

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2397

To reauthorize the women’s entrepreneurial development programs of the
Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2007

Ms. FALLIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Small Business

A BILL

To reauthorize the women’s entrepreneurial development pro-
grams of the Small Business Administration, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “SBA Women’s Business Programs Act of 2007”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL

Sec. 101. Annual studies on problems hindering the success of women entre-
preneurs.

Sec. 102. Additional progress reports.

TITLE II—WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS

Sec. 201. Revised funding formula.

Sec. 202. Matchmaking formula change.

Sec. 203. Termination of funding.

Sec. 204. Women’s business center awards to be made public.

1 **TITLE I—NATIONAL WOMEN’S**
 2 **BUSINESS COUNCIL**

3 **SEC. 101. ANNUAL STUDIES ON PROBLEMS HINDERING THE**
 4 **SUCCESS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.**

5 Section 409 of the Women’s Business Ownership Act
 6 of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7109) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
 8 section (c); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 “(b) PROBLEMS HINDERING THE SUCCESS OF
 12 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.—The Council shall conduct at
 13 least one study per year that evaluates the problems hin-
 14 dering the success of women entrepreneurs. The Council
 15 shall select the topic for the study in consultation with
 16 the Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
 17 resentatives and the Committee on Small Business and
 18 Entrepreneurship of the Senate.”.

19 **SEC. 102. ADDITIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS.**

20 Section 406(d)(4) of the Women’s Business Owner-
 21 ship Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7106(d)(4)) is amended by
 22 inserting before the semicolon at the end the following:

1 “, and on a biannual basis (notwithstanding paragraph
2 (6)) submit to the President and to the Committee on
3 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and
4 the Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives a report containing a description of, and the
6 status of, such initiatives, policies, programs, and plans”.

7 **TITLE II—WOMEN’S BUSINESS** 8 **CENTERS**

9 **SEC. 201. REVISED FUNDING FORMULA.**

10 Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
11 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(b) **AUTHORITY.**—

13 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may
14 provide financial assistance to private nonprofit or-
15 ganizations to conduct projects for the benefit of
16 small business concerns owned and controlled by
17 women. The projects shall provide—

18 “(A) financial assistance, including train-
19 ing and counseling in how to apply for and se-
20 cure business credit and investment capital,
21 preparing and presenting financial statements,
22 and managing cash flow and other financial op-
23 erations of a business concern;

24 “(B) management assistance, including
25 training and counseling in how to plan, orga-

1 nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-
2 ity and function of a small business concern;
3 and

4 “(C) marketing assistance, including train-
5 ing and counseling in identifying and seg-
6 menting domestic and international market op-
7 portunities, preparing and executing marketing
8 plans, developing pricing strategies, locating
9 contract opportunities, negotiating contracts,
10 and utilizing varying public relations and adver-
11 tising techniques.

12 “(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide
13 assistance under paragraph (1) in three tiers of as-
14 sistance as follows:

15 “(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-
16 year project in a situation where a project has
17 not previously been conducted. Such a project
18 shall be in a total amount of not more than
19 \$150,000 per year.

20 “(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a
21 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier
22 project is being completed. Such a project shall
23 be in a total amount of not more than
24 \$100,000 per year.

1 “(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a
2 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier
3 project is being completed. Such a project shall
4 be in a total amount of not more than
5 \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants are renew-
6 able subject to established eligibility criteria as
7 well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

8 “(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
9 made available for assistance under this subsection,
10 the Administrator shall allocate—

11 “(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier
12 projects under paragraph (2)(A);

13 “(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects
14 under paragraph (2)(B); and

15 “(C) the remainder for third-tier projects
16 under paragraph (2)(C).

17 “(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER
18 PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under
19 paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use
20 benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the
21 community and on the performance of the applicant.
22 The benchmarks shall include—

23 “(A) the total number of women served by
24 the project;

1 “(B) the proportion of low income women
2 and socio-economic distribution of clients served
3 by the project;

4 “(C) the proportion of individuals in the
5 community that are socially or economically dis-
6 advantaged (based on median income);

7 “(D) the future fundraising and service co-
8 ordination plans;

9 “(E) the diversity of services provided; and

10 “(F) regional distribution within the 10
11 districts of the Administration.”.

12 **SEC. 202. MATCHMAKING FORMULA CHANGE.**

13 Section 29(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15
14 U.S.C. 656(c)(1)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and
16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(A) For the first and second years of the
18 project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal
19 dollars.

20 “(B) Each year after the second year of
21 the project—

22 “(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each
23 Federal dollar; or

24 “(ii) if the center is in a community
25 at least 50 percent of the population of

1 which is below the median income, 1 non-
2 Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars.”.

3 **SEC. 203. TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**

4 Section 29(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
5 656(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) TERMINATION.—An organization that has
7 conducted a project under this subsection—

8 “(A) is not eligible to conduct another such
9 project; and

10 “(B) may continue thereafter to use the
11 women’s business center logo only with the con-
12 sent of the Administrator.”.

13 **SEC. 204. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER AWARDS TO BE**
14 **MADE PUBLIC.**

15 Section 29(g)(2)(B)(ii)(V) of the Small Business Act
16 (15 U.S.C. 656(g)(2)(B)(ii)(V)) is amended by inserting
17 before the semicolon at the end the following: “, and make
18 available to the public the award made to each applicant
19 so selected”.

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