

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1816

To establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2025

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. LALOTA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, 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 “WOSB Accountability
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED SMALL BUSINESS**

7 **CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY**
8 **WOMEN FROM GOALS.**

9 (a) EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBs FROM
10 GOVERNMENTWIDE AND AGENCY GOALS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(g) of the Small
2 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)) is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

4 “(4) EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS
5 FROM GOALS.—Only small business concerns owned
6 and controlled by women that have been certified
7 under section 8(m)(2)(E) shall be included in calcu-
8 lating the goals established—

9 “(A) under paragraph (1)(A)(v); and

10 “(B) by the head of a Federal agency for
11 small business concerns owned and controlled
12 by women under paragraph (2).”.

13 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
14 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the first day
15 after the end of the second fiscal year beginning
16 after the Administrator issues the regulations re-
17 quired under subsection (b)(2).

18 (b) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SELF-CERTIFIED
19 WOSBS.—

20 (1) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN SELF-CERTIFIED
21 WOSBS IN GOALS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
23 other provision of law, a small business concern
24 described in subparagraph (B) shall be deemed
25 to have been certified by the Administrator or

1 a national certifying entity approved by the Ad-
2 ministrator under section 8(m) of the Small
3 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) as a small
4 business concern owned and controlled by
5 women under paragraph (2)(E) of such section
6 (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(2)(E)) for the purposes of
7 calculating the goals described in paragraph (4)
8 of section 15(g) of the such Act (as added by
9 subsection (a) of this Act) until the Adminis-
10 trator or such a national certifying entity make
11 a determination with respect to the certification
12 of such concern.

13 (B) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS DE-
14 SCRIBED.—A small business concern described
15 in this subparagraph is a small business con-
16 cern—

17 (i) that is self-certified as a small
18 business concern owned and controlled by
19 women as of the date on which the amend-
20 ments made by subsection (a) take effect;

21 (ii) that files a certification applica-
22 tion with the Administrator or a national
23 certifying entity approved by the Adminis-
24 trator under section 8(m) of the Small

1 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) prior to
2 such date; and

3 (iii) for which the Administrator or
4 such a national certifying entity does not
5 make a determination prior to such date
6 regarding certification pursuant to such
7 certification application.

8 (2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than one year
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
10 ministrator shall issue regulations carrying out this
11 section.

12 (c) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS REQUIRED.—Not later
13 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act
14 and on a quarterly basis thereafter until the date specified
15 in subsection (b), the Administrator shall provide to the
16 Committee on Small Business of the House of Representa-
17 tives and the Committee Small Business and Entrepre-
18 neurship of the Senate a briefing on the implementation
19 of the requirements of this section. Such briefings shall
20 include—

21 (1) the total number of small business concerns
22 expected to seek certification as a small business
23 concern owned and controlled by women;

24 (2) the number of applications for certification
25 pending with the Administrator or a national certi-

1 fying entity approved by the Administrator under
2 section 8(m) of the Small Business Act during the
3 period covered by the briefing;

4 (3) the total number of applications approved
5 by the Administrator or such a national certifying
6 entity since the date of the enactment of this Act;

7 (4) the timelines associated with processing
8 such applications by the Administrator or such a na-
9 tional certifying entity between submission and ap-
10 proval;

11 (5) the administrative costs to the Administra-
12 tion to make determinations on such applications
13 and the estimated cost to such applicant to seek cer-
14 tification from a national certifying entity;

15 (6) a discussion of the Administrator’s current
16 and future outreach efforts to small business con-
17 cerns owned and controlled by women and to Fed-
18 eral agencies on the requirements of this Act; and

19 (7) recommendations for additional legislative
20 authority or resources required to fully implement
21 the requirements of this Act.

22 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
24 tion” means the Small Business Administration.

1 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Small Busi-
3 ness Administration.

4 (3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
5 “small business concern” has the meaning given
6 under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15
7 U.S.C. 632).

8 (4) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND
9 CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term “small busi-
10 ness concern owned and controlled by women” has
11 the meaning given the term in section 8(m) of the
12 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)).

13 (e) COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.—No additional
14 amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
15 this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

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