IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2016

Mr. Peters (for himself, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Risch, Mr. Coons, and Ms. Hirono) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

MAY 24, 2016
Reported by Mr. Vitter, without amendment

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the SBA;

(2) the term “Director” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO;

(3) the term “SBA” means the Small Business Administration;

(4) the term “small business concern” has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a));

(5) the term “small business development center” means a center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648); and

(6) the term “USPTO” means the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the USPTO and the SBA are positioned to—

(A) build upon several successful intellectual property and training programs aimed at small business concerns; and
(B) increase the availability of and the participation in those programs across the United States; and

(2) any education and training program administered by the USPTO and the SBA should be scalable so that the program is able to reach more small business concerns.

SEC. 4. SBA AND USPTO PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) In general.—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Director, shall develop partnership agreements that—

(1) provide for the—

(A) development of high-quality training, including in-person or modular training sessions, for small business concerns relating to domestic and international protection of intellectual property;

(B) leveraging of training materials already developed for the education of inventors and small business concerns; and

(C) participation of a nongovernmental organization; and

(2) provide training—
(A) through electronic resources, including
Internet-based webinars; and

(B) at physical locations, including—

(i) a small business development cen-
ter; and

(ii) the headquarters or a regional of-
cice of the USPTO.

SEC. 5. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

Section 21(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15
U.S.C. 648(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (S), by striking “and” at
the end;

(2) in subparagraph (T), by striking the period
at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(U) in conjunction with the United States
Patent and Trademark Office, providing train-
ing—

“(i) to small business concerns relat-
ing to—

“(I) domestic and international
intellectual property protections; and

“(II) how those protections
should be considered in the business
plans and growth strategies of the
small business concerns; and
“(ii) which may be delivered—
“(I) in person; or
“(II) through a website.”.
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