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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office  
of Rural Affairs, 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. OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE SMALL**  
4 **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.**

5 Section 26 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 653)  
6 is amended—

7 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-  
8 lows:

1       “(b) APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-  
2 TRATOR.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be admin-  
4 istered by an Assistant Administrator, who shall be  
5 an employee in the competitive service.

6           “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Admin-  
7 istrator shall—

8           “(A) have education or professional experi-  
9 ence with, or knowledge of, rural affairs and  
10 issues relating to small business concerns; and

11           “(B) have experience providing develop-  
12 ment assistance to rural small business con-  
13 cerns.”;

14       (2) in subsection (c)—

15           (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “small  
16 business concerns located in rural areas” and  
17 inserting “rural small business concerns”;

18           (B) in paragraph (3)—

19           (i) by striking “provide information”  
20 and inserting “promote”; and

21           (ii) by striking “concerning the” and  
22 all that follows through the semicolon at  
23 the end and inserting the following: “poli-  
24 cies and programs of the Administration  
25 and of other Federal departments and

1 agencies for assisting rural small business  
2 concerns;”;

3 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and”  
4 and inserting a semicolon;

5 (D) in paragraph (5)—

6 (i) by striking “the United States  
7 Tourism and Travel Administration” and  
8 inserting “the National Travel and Tour-  
9 ism Office of the Department of Com-  
10 merce”;

11 (ii) by striking “small businesses in  
12 rural areas” and inserting “rural small  
13 business concerns”;

14 (iii) by striking the period at the end  
15 and inserting “; and”; and

16 (E) by adding at the end the following new  
17 paragraph:

18 “(6) host webinars and outreach events for  
19 rural small business concerns as described in sub-  
20 section (d).”; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
22 sections:

23 “(d) OUTREACH.—The Assistant Administrator  
24 shall—

1           “(1) host webinars and outreach events in var-  
2           ious regions of the United States for rural small  
3           business concerns; and

4           “(2) invite representatives from district offices  
5           of the Administration, resource partners, Federal  
6           and State agencies, and other interested persons to  
7           participate in such webinars and outreach events.

8           “(e) REPORT.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
10          after the date of the enactment of this subsection,  
11          and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall sub-  
12          mit to the Committee on Small Business of the  
13          House of Representatives and the Committee on  
14          Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate,  
15          and make publicly make available on a website of  
16          the Administration, a report on the activities of the  
17          Office during the one-year period immediately pre-  
18          ceding the date of submission of the report.

19          “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required under  
20          paragraph (1) shall include the following:

21                 “(A) The operational details of the Office,  
22                 including the name of the Assistant Adminis-  
23                 trator, the budget of the Office, and the num-  
24                 ber of full-time employees employed by or de-  
25                 tailed to the Office.

1           “(B) A summary of the activities con-  
2           ducted under subsection (c).

3           “(C) The number of webinars and out-  
4           reach events conducted by the Administration  
5           to promote policies and programs described in  
6           paragraphs (3) of subsection (c) and to provide  
7           information described in (4) of such subsection.

8           “(D) An analysis of gaps in lending pro-  
9           grams of the Administration in serving the  
10          needs of rural small business concerns.

11          “(E) Information gathered from any  
12          webinars and outreach events conducted by the  
13          Administration during the period covered by the  
14          report.

15          “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16                 “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term  
17                 ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-  
18                 ministrators of the Office of Rural Affairs appointed  
19                 under subsection (b).

20                 “(2) RESOURCE PARTNERS.—The term ‘re-  
21                 source partners’ means—

22                         “(A) small business development centers;

23                         “(B) women’s business centers (described  
24                         under section 29);

1                   “(C) chapters of the Service Corps of Re-  
2                   tired Executives (established under section  
3                   8(b)(1)(B)); and

4                   “(D) Veteran Business Outreach Centers  
5                   (described under section 32).

6                   “(3) RURAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The  
7                   term ‘rural small business concern’ means a small  
8                   business concern located in a rural area.”.