

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6450

To amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2022

Mrs. KIM of California (for herself and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE
program, 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 “SCORE for Small
5 Business Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. SCORE PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND REQUIRE-**
7 **MENTS.**

8 Section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637)
9 is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B)—

1 (A) by striking “a Service Corps of Retired
2 Executives (SCORE)” and inserting “the
3 SCORE program described in subsection (c)”;
4 and

5 (B) by striking “SCORE may” and insert-
6 ing “the SCORE Association (as defined in
7 subsection (c)) may”; and

8 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(c) SCORE PROGRAM.—

11 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

12 “(A) SCORE ASSOCIATION.—The term
13 ‘SCORE Association’ means the Service Corps
14 of Retired Executives Association or any suc-
15 cessor or other organization that enters into a
16 cooperative agreement (as described under
17 paragraph (2)) with the Administrator to oper-
18 ate the SCORE program.

19 “(B) SCORE FOUNDATION.—The term
20 ‘SCORE Foundation’ means an organization
21 with a mission to support the SCORE Associa-
22 tion and volunteers of the SCORE program.

23 “(C) SCORE PROGRAM.—The term
24 ‘SCORE program’ means the SCORE program
25 authorized by subsection (b)(1)(B).

1 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Admin-
2 istrator shall enter into a cooperative agreement
3 with the SCORE Association to carry out the
4 SCORE program, which shall include the following
5 requirements:

6 “(A) ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES.—The Ad-
7 ministrator shall—

8 “(i) every 2 years, conduct a financial
9 examination of the SCORE Association to
10 ensure that any costs paid for with Federal
11 funds are allowable, allocable, and reason-
12 able;

13 “(ii) review and approve contracts en-
14 tered into by the SCORE Association to
15 provide goods or services for the SCORE
16 program of a value greater than an
17 amount determined by the Administrator;

18 “(iii) maintain a system through
19 which the SCORE Association provides
20 documentation relating to such contracts;
21 and

22 “(iv) within 30 days of the receipt of
23 a quarterly report on the achievements of
24 the SCORE program submitted by the
25 SCORE Association, reconcile differences

1 between such report and the performance
2 results of the SCORE program reported in
3 a management information system of the
4 Office of Entrepreneurial Development.

5 “(B) SCORE ASSOCIATION DUTIES.—The
6 SCORE Association shall—

7 “(i) manage nationwide chapters of
8 the SCORE program;

9 “(ii) provide annual training to em-
10 ployees of the SCORE Association on gen-
11 erating and using program income from
12 the SCORE program;

13 “(iii) submit documentation to the
14 Administrator verifying such annual train-
15 ing is completed;

16 “(iv) separate funds donated to the
17 SCORE Association from program income
18 and funds received pursuant to a coopera-
19 tive agreement; and

20 “(v) maintain and enforce require-
21 ments for volunteers participating in the
22 SCORE program, including requirements
23 that each such volunteer shall—

1 “(I) based on the business expe-
2 rience and knowledge of the volun-
3 teer—

4 “(aa) provide personal coun-
5 seling, mentoring, and coaching
6 on the process of starting, ex-
7 panding, managing, buying, and
8 selling a business at no cost to
9 individuals who own, or aspire to
10 own, small business concerns;
11 and

12 “(bb) facilitate free or low-
13 cost education workshops for in-
14 dividuals who own, or aspire to
15 own, small business concerns;
16 and

17 “(II) as appropriate, use tools,
18 resources, and expertise of other orga-
19 nizations to carry out the SCORE
20 program.

21 “(C) JOINT DUTIES.—The Administrator,
22 in consultation with the SCORE Association,
23 shall ensure that the SCORE program and each
24 chapter of the SCORE program—

1 “(i) develop and implement plans and
2 goals to effectively and efficiently provide
3 services to individuals in rural areas, eco-
4 nomically disadvantaged communities, or
5 other traditionally underserved commu-
6 nities, including plans for virtual, remote,
7 and web-based initiatives, chapter expan-
8 sion, partnerships, and the development of
9 new skills by volunteers participating in
10 the SCORE program; and

11 “(ii) reinforce an inclusive culture by
12 recruiting diverse volunteers for the chap-
13 ters of the SCORE program.

14 “(3) ONLINE COMPONENT.—In addition to pro-
15 viding in-person services, the SCORE Association
16 shall maintain and expand online counseling services
17 including webinars, electronic mentoring platforms,
18 and online toolkits to further support entrepreneurs.

19 “(4) ACCOUNTING.—The SCORE Association
20 shall—

21 “(A) maintain a centralized accounting
22 and financing system for each chapter of the
23 SCORE program;

24 “(B) maintain a uniform policy and proce-
25 dures to manage Federal funds received pursu-

ant to a cooperative agreement described in paragraph (2); and

“(C) maintain an employee of the SCORE Association to serve as a compliance officer to ensure expenditures of the SCORE program are fully compliant with any law, regulation, or cooperative agreement relating to the SCORE program.

“(5) COMPENSATION.—

“(A) SALARIES.—The salary of an employee of the SCORE Association may not exceed the equivalent of the maximum rate of pay allowable for an individual in the career Senior Executive Service employed at the Administration.

“(B) PERFORMANCE AWARDS.—The SCORE Association may spend up to 5 percent of the aggregate salaries of employees of the SCORE Association on individual performance awards to employees of the SCORE Association, to be disbursed before the last day of the fiscal year, if not later than 60 days before such disbursement the SCORE Association submits to the Administrator a report on the number and amount of such awards to be disbursed.

1 “(C) SCORE FOUNDATION.—A member of
2 the Board of Directors of the SCORE Associa-
3 tion or an employee of the SCORE Association
4 may not simultaneously serve on the Board of
5 Directors of, or receive compensation from, the
6 SCORE Foundation without written approval
7 from the Administrator.

8 “(6) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION REQUIRE-
9 MENTS.—The SCORE Association shall—

10 “(A) annually update all manuals or other
11 documents applicable to employees and volun-
12 teers of the SCORE Association or the SCORE
13 program to include requirements relating to re-
14 porting procedures and protectors for whistle-
15 blowers; and

16 “(B) conduct an annual training for em-
17 ployees and volunteers of the SCORE Associa-
18 tion or the SCORE program on the require-
19 ments described in paragraph (1) and encour-
20 age the use of the hotline established by the Of-
21 fice of the Inspector General of the Small Busi-
22 ness Administration to submit whistleblower re-
23 ports.

24 “(7) PUBLISHED MATERIALS.—The SCORE
25 Association shall ensure all published materials in-

1 include written acknowledgment of Small Business Ad-
2 ministration support of the SCORE program if such
3 materials are paid for in whole or in part by Federal
4 funds.

5 “(8) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Adminis-
7 trator nor the SCORE Association may disclose
8 the name, address, or telephone number of any
9 individual or small business concern receiving
10 assistance from the SCORE Association with-
11 out the consent of such individual or small busi-
12 ness concern, unless—

13 “(i) the Administrator is ordered to
14 make such a disclosure by a court in any
15 civil or criminal enforcement action initi-
16 ated by a Federal or State agency; or

17 “(ii) the Administrator determines
18 such a disclosure is necessary for the pur-
19 pose of conducting a financial audit of the
20 SCORE program, in which case disclosure
21 shall be limited to the information nec-
22 essary for the audit.

23 “(B) ADMINISTRATOR USE OF INFORMA-
24 TION.—This paragraph shall not—

1 “(i) restrict the access of the Adminis-
2 trator to SCORE program activity data; or

3 “(ii) prevent the Administrator from
4 using SCORE program client information
5 to conduct client surveys.

6 “(C) STANDARDS.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
8 shall, after the opportunity for notice and
9 comment, establish standards for—

10 “(I) disclosures with respect to
11 financial audits described under sub-
12 paragraph (A)(ii); and

13 “(II) conducting client surveys,
14 including standards for oversight of
15 the surveys and for dissemination and
16 use of client information.

17 “(ii) MAXIMUM PRIVACY PROTEC-
18 TION.—The standards issued under this
19 subparagraph shall, to the extent prac-
20 ticable, provide for the maximum amount
21 of privacy protection.

22 “(9) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180
23 days after the date of the enactment of this sub-
24 section and annually thereafter, the Administrator
25 shall submit to the Committee on Small Business

1 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Com-
2 mittee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives a report on the performance and effec-
4 tiveness of the SCORE program, which may be in-
5 cluded as part of another report submitted to such
6 Committees by the Administrator, and which shall
7 include—

8 “(A) the total number and the number of
9 unique clients counseled or trained under the
10 SCORE program;

11 “(B) the number of hours of counseling
12 provided under the SCORE program;

13 “(C) the number of local workshops pro-
14 vided under the SCORE program;

15 “(D) the number of clients attending on-
16 line and local workshops provided under the
17 SCORE program;

18 “(E) to the extent practicable, the demo-
19 graphics of SCORE program clients and volun-
20 teers, which shall include the gender, race, and
21 age of each such client or volunteer;

22 “(F) with respect to businesses assisted
23 under the SCORE program, the cost to create
24 a job, the cost to create a business, and return
25 on investment;

1 “(G) the number of referrals of SCORE
2 program clients to other resources and pro-
3 grams of the Administration;

4 “(H) the number of SCORE program cli-
5 ents receiving financial assistance, including the
6 type and dollar amount, under loan programs of
7 the Administration;

8 “(I) the results of SCORE program client
9 satisfactory surveys, including a summary of
10 any comments received from such clients;

11 “(J) the number of new businesses started
12 up by SCORE program clients;

13 “(K) the number of such new businesses
14 realizing revenue growth;

15 “(L) to the extent practicable, the number
16 of jobs created with assistance from the
17 SCORE program;

18 “(M) the total cost of the SCORE pro-
19 gram;

20 “(N) any recommendations of the Adminis-
21 trator to improve the SCORE program; and

22 “(O) an explanation of how the SCORE
23 program has been integrated with—

24 “(i) small business development cen-
25 ters;

1 “(ii) women’s business centers (de-
2 scribed under section 29);

3 “(iii) Veteran Business Outreach Cen-
4 ters 20 (described under section 32);

5 “(iv) other offices of the Administra-
6 tion; and

7 “(v) other public and private entities
8 engaging in entrepreneurial and small
9 business development.”.

10 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**
11 **SCORE PROGRAM.**

12 Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631
13 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new
14 subsection:

15 “(i) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be
16 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the
17 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums
18 as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or
19 enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that
20 does not exceed \$13,500,000 in each of fiscal years 2022
21 and 2023.”.

22 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

23 (a) STUDY AND REPORT ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF
24 THE SCORE PROGRAM.—

1 (1) STUDY.—The SCORE Association shall
2 carry out a study on the future role of the SCORE
3 program and develop a strategic plan for how the
4 SCORE program will meet the needs of small busi-
5 ness concerns during the 5-year period beginning on
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, with specific
7 objectives for the first, third, and fifth years of such
8 5-year period.

9 (2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-
10 month period beginning on the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the SCORE Association 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 a report containing—

16 (A) all findings and determination made in
17 carrying out the study required under para-
18 graph (1);

19 (B) the strategic plan developed under
20 paragraph (1); and

21 (C) an explanation of how the SCORE As-
22 sociation plans to achieve the strategic plan, as-
23 suming both stagnant and increased funding
24 levels.

1 (b) ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON LEASED SPACE.—

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
3 this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Admin-
4 istration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business
5 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
6 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a re-
7 port containing an assessment of the cost of leased space
8 that is donated to the SCORE Association.

9 (c) ONLINE COMPONENT REPORT.—Not later than
10 3 months after the last day of the first full fiscal year
11 following the date of the enactment of this Act, the
12 SCORE Association shall submit to the Committee on
13 Small Business of the House of Representatives and the
14 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
15 the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the online coun-
16 seling services required under paragraph (3) of section
17 8(c) of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2 of
18 this Act, including a description of—

19 (1) how the SCORE Association determines
20 electronic mentoring and webinar needs, develops
21 training for electronic mentoring, establishes
22 webinar criteria curricula, and evaluates webinar
23 and electronic mentoring results;

24 (2) the internal controls that are used and a
25 summary of the topics covered by the webinars; and

1 (3) performance metrics, including the number
 2 of small business concerns counseled by, the number
 3 of small business concerns created by, the number of
 4 jobs created and retained by, and the funding
 5 amounts directed towards such online counseling
 6 services.

7 **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

8 (a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act
 9 (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

10 (1) in section 7 (15 U.S.C. 636)—

11 (A) in subsection (b)(12)—

12 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
 13 serting “PROGRAM” after “SCORE”; and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 15 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and
 16 inserting “SCORE program”; and

17 (B) in subsection (m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII), by
 18 striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives”
 19 and inserting “SCORE program”; and

20 (2) in section 22 (15 U.S.C. 649)—

21 (A) in subsection (b)—

22 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking
 23 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and
 24 inserting “SCORE program”; and

1 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking
2 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and
3 inserting “SCORE program”; and
4 (B) in subsection (c)(12), by striking
5 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and in-
6 serting “SCORE program”.

7 (b) OTHER LAWS.—

8 (1) SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT
9 OF 1997.—Section 707 of the Small Business Reau-
10 thorization Act of 1997 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is
11 amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Ex-
12 ecutives (SCORE) program” and inserting “SCORE
13 program (as defined in section 8(c)(1) of the Small
14 Business Act)”.

15 (2) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND
16 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.—Sec-
17 tion 301 of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and
18 Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C.
19 657b note) is amended by striking “Service Core of
20 Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE pro-
21 gram”.

22 (3) MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL
23 BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY
24 ACT OF 2008.—Section 3(5) of the Military Reservist
25 and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and

1 Opportunity Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is
 2 amended by striking “the Service Corps of Retired
 3 Executives” and inserting “the SCORE program”.

4 (4) CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
 5 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009.—Section 621 of the
 6 Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthoriza-
 7 tion Act of 2009 (15 U.S.C. 657p) is amended—

8 (A) in subsection (a), by striking para-
 9 graph (4) and inserting the following:

10 “(4) the term ‘SCORE program’ means the
 11 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1)(B)
 12 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 13 637(b)(1)(B));”; and

14 (B) in subsection (b)(4)(A)(iv), by striking
 15 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and in-
 16 serting “SCORE program”.

17 (5) ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION
 18 ACT.—Section 337(d)(2)(A) of the Energy Policy
 19 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6307(d)(2)(A)) is
 20 amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Ex-
 21 ecutives (SCORE)” and inserting “SCORE pro-
 22 gram”.

23 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATION; ADMINISTRATOR.—The
2 terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean,
3 respectively, the Small Business Administration and
4 the Administrator thereof.

5 (2) SCORE ASSOCIATION; SCORE PROGRAM.—
6 The terms “SCORE Association” and “SCORE pro-
7 gram” have the meaning given those terms, respec-
8 tively, under section 8(c)(1) of the Small Business
9 Act, as added by section 2 of this Act.

○