

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7273

To amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for formerly incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2022

Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for formerly incarcerated individuals, 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 “Prison to Proprietor-
5 ship for Formerly Incarcerated Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RE-ENTRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNSELING AND**
2 **TRAINING FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED**
3 **INDIVIDUALS.**

4 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
5 amended—

6 (1) by redesignating section 49 as section 50;

7 and

8 (2) by inserting after section 48 the following
9 new section:

10 **“SEC. 49. RE-ENTRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNSELING**
11 **AND TRAINING FOR FORMERLY INCARCER-**
12 **ATED INDIVIDUALS.**

13 “(a) SERVICES REQUIRED.—The Administrator, in
14 coordination with the Director of the Bureau of Prisons,
15 shall require the Service Corps of Retired Executives au-
16 thorized by section (8)(b)(1) to provide entrepreneurship
17 counseling and training services to individuals formerly in-
18 carcerated in a Federal prison (hereinafter referred to as
19 ‘covered individuals’) on a nationwide basis.

20 “(b) GOALS.—The goal of the services provided under
21 this section is to provide covered individuals with the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(1) Mentoring, workshops, and instructional
24 videos designed specifically for covered individuals
25 on how to start or expand a small business concern.

1 “(2) Tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to
2 identify a business opportunity, including how to—

3 “(A) draft a skills profile, business plan,
4 and transition plan;

5 “(B) identify sources of capital; and

6 “(C) connect with local resources for small
7 business concerns.

8 “(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The services
9 provided under this section shall include—

10 “(1) regular individualized mentoring sessions,
11 to take place over the course of a year, to support
12 development of the business plans of covered individ-
13 uals and the growth of covered individuals as entre-
14 preneurs;

15 “(2) assistance with identifying of local re-
16 sources for small business concerns for covered indi-
17 viduals;

18 “(3) assistance with identifying sources of cap-
19 ital, and when appropriate, assistance with pre-
20 paring applications for loans and other funding op-
21 portunities; and

22 “(4) workshops on topics specifically tailored to
23 meet the needs of covered individuals.

24 “(d) SURVEY.—The Service Corps of Retired Execu-
25 tives shall survey covered individuals who received services

1 under this section to assess the satisfaction of such cov-
2 ered individuals with such services.

3 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter,
5 the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small
6 Business of the House of Representatives and the Com-
7 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the
8 Senate a report on the performance and effectiveness of
9 the services provided under this section, which may be in-
10 cluded as part of another report submitted to such com-
11 mittees by the Administrator, and which shall include—

12 “(1) the number of covered individuals
13 mentored under this section;

14 “(2) the number of hours of mentorship pro-
15 vided by the Service Corps of Retired Executives
16 under this section;

17 “(3) the demographics of covered individuals
18 who received services, including age, gender, race,
19 and ethnicity;

20 “(4) a summary and analysis of surveys con-
21 ducted under subsection (d); and

22 “(5) any additional information the Adminis-
23 trator may require.”.

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