

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3619

To amend and extend The State Trade and Export Promotion Grant
Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 22, 2013

Ms. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Small Business

A BILL

To amend and extend The State Trade and Export
Promotion Grant Program.

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 “STEP A Act of 2013”.

5 **SEC. 2. STATE TRADE AND EXPORT PROMOTION GRANT**
6 **PROGRAM.**

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

9 (1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48;

10 and

1 (2) by inserting after section 46 the following:

2 **“SEC. 47. STATE TRADE AND EXPORT PROMOTION GRANT**
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

5 “(1) the term ‘eligible small business concern’
6 means a small business concern that—

7 “(A) has been in business for not less than
8 the 1-year period ending on the date on which
9 assistance is provided using a grant under this
10 section;

11 “(B) is operating profitably, based on op-
12 erations in the United States;

13 “(C) has demonstrated understanding of
14 the costs associated with exporting and doing
15 business with foreign purchasers, including the
16 costs of freight forwarding, customs brokers,
17 packing and shipping, as determined by the As-
18 sociate Administrator; and

19 “(D) has in effect a strategic plan for ex-
20 porting;

21 “(2) the term ‘program’ means the State Trade
22 and Export Promotion Grant Program established
23 under subsection (b);

24 “(3) the term ‘small business concern owned
25 and controlled by women’ has the meaning given

1 that term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15
2 U.S.C. 632);

3 “(4) the term ‘socially and economically dis-
4 advantaged small business concern’ has the meaning
5 given that term in section 8(a)(4)(A) of the Small
6 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 6537(a)(4)(A)); and

7 “(5) the term ‘State’ means each of the several
8 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
9 of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Com-
10 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and
11 American Samoa.

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Associate
13 Administrator shall establish a trade and export pro-
14 motion program to be known as the State Trade and Ex-
15 port Promotion Grant Program, to make grants to States
16 to carry out export programs that assist eligible small
17 business concerns in—

18 “(1) participation in a foreign trade mission;

19 “(2) a foreign market sales trip;

20 “(3) a subscription to services provided by the
21 Department of Commerce;

22 “(4) the payment of website translation fees;

23 “(5) the design of international marketing
24 media;

25 “(6) a trade show exhibition;

1 “(7) participation in training workshops; or

2 “(8) any other export initiative determined ap-
3 propriate by the Associate Administrator.

4 “(c) GRANTS.—

5 “(1) JOINT REVIEW.—In carrying out the pro-
6 gram, the Associate Administrator may make a
7 grant to a State to increase the number of eligible
8 small business concerns in the State that export or
9 to increase the value of the exports by eligible small
10 business concerns in the State.

11 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making grants
12 under this section, the Associate Administrator may
13 give priority to an application by a State that pro-
14 poses a program that—

15 “(A) focuses on eligible small business con-
16 cerns as part of an export promotion program;

17 “(B) demonstrates success in promoting
18 exports by—

19 “(i) socially and economically dis-
20 advantaged small business concerns;

21 “(ii) small business concerns owned or
22 controlled by women; and

23 “(iii) rural small business concerns;

24 “(C) promotes exports from a State that is
25 not 1 of the 10 States with the highest percent-

1 age of exporters that are small business con-
2 cerns, based upon the latest data available from
3 the Department of Commerce; and

4 “(D) promotes new-to-market export op-
5 portunities to Sub-Saharan Africa for eligible
6 small business concerns in the United States.

7 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

8 “(A) SINGLE APPLICATION.—A State may
9 not submit more than 1 application for a grant
10 under the program in any 1 fiscal year.

11 “(B) PROPORTION OF AMOUNTS.—The
12 total value of grants under the program made
13 during a fiscal year to the 10 States with the
14 highest number of exporters that are small
15 business concerns, based upon the latest data
16 available from the Department of Commerce,
17 shall be not more than 40 percent of the
18 amounts appropriated for the program for that
19 fiscal year.

20 “(4) APPLICATION.—A State desiring a grant
21 under the program shall submit an application at
22 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by
23 such information as the Associate Administrator
24 may establish.

1 “(d) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—The Associate Adminis-
2 trator shall award grants under the program on a competi-
3 tive basis.

4 “(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the
5 cost of an export program carried out using a grant under
6 the program shall be—

7 “(1) for a State that has a high export volume,
8 as determined by the Associate Administrator, not
9 more than 65 percent; and

10 “(2) for a State that does not have a high ex-
11 port volume, as determined by the Associate Admin-
12 istrator, not more than 75 percent.

13 “(f) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share
14 of the cost of an export program carried using a grant
15 under the program shall be comprised of not less than 50
16 percent cash and not more than 50 percent of indirect
17 costs and in-kind contributions, except that no such costs
18 or contributions may be derived from funds from any
19 other Federal program.

20 “(g) REPORTS.—The Associate Administrator shall
21 submit an annual report to the Committee on Small Busi-
22 ness and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Com-
23 mittee on Small Business of the House of Representatives
24 regarding the State Trade and Export Promotion Grant
25 Program, which shall include—

1 “(1) the description of the program and the se-
2 lection process conducted by States to award grants
3 to small business concerns;

4 “(2) the number and amount of grants made
5 under the program during the preceding year;

6 “(3) a list of the States receiving a grant under
7 the program during the preceding year, including
8 the activities being performed with grant;

9 “(4) the effect of each grant on exports by eligi-
10 ble small business concerns in the State receiving
11 the grant; and

12 “(5) the number of grants and amounts award-
13 ed under the program covering exports to Sub-Saha-
14 ran Africa.

15 “(h) REVIEWS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of
17 the Administration shall conduct a review of—

18 “(A) the extent to which recipients of
19 grants under the program are measuring the
20 performance of the activities being conducted
21 and the results of the measurements; and

22 “(B) the overall management and effective-
23 ness of the program.

24 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than the date that is
25 2 years after the date of enactment of this section,

1 and every 2 years thereafter, the Inspector General
2 of the Administration shall submit to the Committee
3 on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Sen-
4 ate and the Committee on Small Business of the
5 House of Representatives a report regarding the re-
6 view conducted under paragraph (1).

7 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program
9 \$30,000,000 for each fiscal year after the date of enact-
10 ment of this section.”.

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