

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 986

To require the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to enter into an agreement to coordinate government contracting assistance offered by small business development centers and APEX Accelerators, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to enter into an agreement to coordinate government contracting assistance offered by small business development centers and APEX Accelerators, 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 “Coordinating Our
5 Local Liaisons And Bringing Out Related Agency Tech-
6 nical Expertise Act” or the “COLLABORATE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT CON-**
2 **TRACTING ASSISTANCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of De-
5 fense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for
6 Acquisition and Sustainment, and the Administrator of
7 the Small Business Administration shall—

8 (1) enter into an interagency agreement to co-
9 ordinate the government contracting and procure-
10 ment assistance offered to small business concerns
11 by small business development centers and APEX
12 Accelerators; and

13 (2) jointly submit to the Committees on Armed
14 Services and Small Business of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives and the Committees on Armed Services
16 and Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the
17 Senate such interagency agreement.

18 (b) CONTENTS.—The interagency agreement re-
19 quired under subsection (a) shall—

20 (1) ensure that government contracting and
21 procurement assistance provided by covered centers
22 is provided by employees of the covered center who
23 have training on government contracting and pro-
24 curement;

1 (2) provide for the allocation of resources and
2 responsibilities between small business development
3 centers and APEX Accelerators to—

4 (A) prevent small business concerns from
5 receiving duplicative assistance or contradictory
6 or confusing information from covered centers;

7 (B) ensure that the activities of a covered
8 center, including any assistance or other serv-
9 ices provided by such covered center, are attrib-
10 uted only to such covered center; and

11 (C) clarify the responsibilities of employees
12 of small business development centers and the
13 responsibilities of employees of APEX Accelera-
14 tors when a small business development center
15 and APEX Accelerator share a location; and

16 (3) provide a framework enabling small busi-
17 ness development centers and APEX Accelerators to
18 coordinate the provision of government contracting
19 and procurement assistance to small business con-
20 cerns, as appropriate.

21 (c) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than one year
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
23 trator of Small Business Administration shall submit to
24 Congress a report on the efforts of the Administrator and
25 the Secretary of Defense with respect to the establishment

1 of the interagency agreement required under subsection
2 (a).

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) APEX ACCELERATOR.—The term “APEX
5 Accelerator” means a center operating under a coop-
6 erative agreement with the Office of Small Business
7 Programs to provide procurement technical assist-
8 ance pursuant to the authority provided in chapter
9 388 of title 10, United States Code.

10 (2) COVERED CENTER.—The term “covered
11 center” means a small business development center
12 or an APEX Accelerator.

13 (3) OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—
14 The term “Office of Small Business Programs”
15 means the office established within the Office of the
16 Secretary of Defense under section 15(k) of the
17 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)).

18 (4) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
19 “small business concern” has the meaning given
20 such term under section 3 of the Small Business Act
21 (15 U.S.C. 632).

22 (5) SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CEN-
23 TER.—The term “small business development cen-

1 ter” has the meaning given such term in section 3
2 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

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