

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 791

To amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2017

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, 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 “Small Business Inno-  
5 vation Protection Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
9 ministrator of the SBA;

1           (2) the term “Director” means the Under Sec-  
2           retary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
3           Director of the USPTO;

4           (3) the term “SBA” means the Small Business  
5           Administration;

6           (4) the term “small business concern” has the  
7           meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Small  
8           Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a));

9           (5) the term “small business development cen-  
10          ter” means a center described in section 21 of the  
11          Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648); and

12          (6) the term “USPTO” means the United  
13          States Patent and Trademark Office.

14 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

15          Congress finds that—

16           (1) the USPTO and the SBA are positioned  
17          to—

18           (A) build upon several successful intellec-  
19           tual property and training programs aimed at  
20           small business concerns; and

21           (B) increase the availability of and the  
22           participation in the programs described in sub-  
23           paragraph (A) across the United States; and

24           (2) any education and training program admin-  
25          istered by the USPTO and the SBA should be scal-

1       able so that the program is able to reach more small  
2       business concerns.

3 **SEC. 4. SBA AND USPTO PARTNERSHIPS.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 180  
5 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-  
6 trator, in consultation with the Director, shall develop  
7 partnership agreements that—

8           (1) provide for the—

9               (A) development of high-quality training,  
10 including in-person or modular training ses-  
11 sions, for small business concerns relating to  
12 domestic and international protection of intel-  
13 lectual property;

14               (B) leveraging of training materials al-  
15 ready developed for the education of inventors  
16 and small business concerns; and

17               (C) participation of a nongovernmental or-  
18 ganization; and

19           (2) provide training—

20               (A) through electronic resources, including  
21 Internet-based webinars; and

22               (B) at physical locations, including—

23                   (i) a small business development cen-  
24 ter; and

1 (ii) the headquarters or a regional of-  
2 fice of the USPTO.

3 **SEC. 5. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

4 Section 21(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15  
5 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (S), by striking “and” at  
7 the end;

8 (2) in subparagraph (T), by striking the period  
9 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(U) in conjunction with the United States Pat-  
12 ent and Trademark Office, providing training—

13 “(i) to small business concerns relating  
14 to—

15 “(I) domestic and international intel-  
16 lectual property protections; and

17 “(II) how the protections described in  
18 subclause (I) should be considered in the  
19 business plans and growth strategies of the  
20 small business concerns; and

21 “(ii) that may be delivered—

22 “(I) in person; or

23 “(II) through a website.”.

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