

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2655

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. EVANS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 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—

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

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

6 (3) the term “SBA” means the Small Business
7 Administration;

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

17 Congress finds that—

18 (1) the USPTO and the SBA are positioned
19 to—

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

23 (B) increase the availability of and the
24 participation in those programs across the
25 United States; and

1 (2) any education and training program admin-
2 istered by the USPTO and the SBA should be scal-
3 able so that the program is able to reach more small
4 business concerns.

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

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the
8 Director shall enter into a partnership agreement under
9 which the Administrator and Director shall—

10 (1) develop high-quality training, including in-
11 person or modular training sessions, for small busi-
12 ness concerns relating to—

13 (A) domestic and international protection
14 of intellectual property; and

15 (B) how such protections should be consid-
16 ered in the business plans and growth strategies
17 of the small business concerns; and

18 (2) leverage existing training materials already
19 developed to educate inventors and small business
20 concerns.

21 (b) TRAINING.—The training developed under sub-
22 section (a) may be provided by the Administrator, the Di-
23 rector, or small business development centers established
24 under section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
25 648)—

1 (1) through electronic resources, including
2 Internet-based webinars; and

3 (2) at physical locations, including at—

4 (A) a small business development center;

5 or

6 (B) the headquarters or a regional office of
7 the USPTO.

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

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

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

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

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

16 “(U) training developed by the Administrator
17 and the Director of the United States Patent and
18 Trademark Office, which may be delivered in person
19 or through a website to small business concerns re-
20 lating to—

21 “(i) domestic and international intellectual
22 property protections; and

1 “(ii) how such protections should be con-
2 sidered in the business plans and growth strate-
3 gies of the small business concerns.”.

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