

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 5160

To establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 3, 2021

Ms. Davids of Kansas (for herself and Mr. Neguse) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, 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 "Native American En-
- 5 trepreneurial Opportunity Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.
- 7 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
- 8 amended—
- 9 (1) by redesignating section 49 (15 U.S.C. 631
- note) as section 50; and

1	(2) by inserting after section 48 (15 U.S.C.
2	657u) the following:
3	"SEC. 49. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.
4	"(a) Definitions.—In this section:
5	"(1) Associate administrator.—The term
6	'Associate Administrator' means the Associate Ad-
7	ministrator for Native American Affairs appointed
8	under subsection (c).
9	"(2) Indian Tribe.—The term 'Indian Tribe'
10	has the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in sec-
11	tion $8(a)(13)$.
12	"(3) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The
13	term 'Native Hawaiian Organization' has the mean-
14	ing given the term in section $8(a)(15)$.
15	"(4) Office.—The term 'Office' means the Of-
16	fice of Native American Affairs described in this sec-
17	tion.
18	"(b) Establishment.—
19	"(1) In general.—There is established within
20	the Administration the Office of Native American
21	Affairs, which shall be responsible for establishing a
22	working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native
23	Hawaiian Organizations by targeting programs of
24	the Administration relating to entrepreneurial devel-
25	opment, contracting, and capital access to revitalize

- small business concerns owned and controlled by individuals who are members of Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian Organizations and economic development in Indian country.
- 5 "(2) CONNECTION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—
 6 To the extent reasonable, the Office shall connect
 7 Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations to
 8 programs administered by other Federal agencies re9 lated to the interests described in paragraph (1).
- 10 "(3) FIELD OFFICES.—The Office may estab-11 lish field offices within such regional offices of the 12 Administration as may be necessary, with initial 13 focus on those parts of Indian Country most eco-14 nomically disadvantaged, to perform efficiently the 15 functions and responsibilities of the Office.
- "(c) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Office shall
 be headed by an Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs, who shall—
- 19 "(1) be appointed by and report to the Admin-20 istrator;
- "(2) have knowledge of Native American cultures and experience providing culturally tailored small business development assistance to Native Americans;

- 1 "(3) carry out the program to provide assist-2 ance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organi-3 zations and small business concerns owned and con-4 trolled by individuals who are members of those 5 groups;
 - "(4) administer and manage Native American outreach expansion;
 - "(5) enhance assistance to Native Americans by formulating and promoting policies, programs, and assistance that better address their entrepreneurial, capital access, business development, and contracting needs, and collaborate with other Associate Administrators and intergovernmental leaders with similar missions across Federal agencies on the development of policies and plans to implement new programs of the Administration, while supplementing existing Federal programs to holistically serve those needs;
 - "(6) act as an ombudsman for Native Americans for programs of the Administration;
 - "(7) provide grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other financial assistance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations, or to private nonprofit organizations governed by mem-

1	bers of those entities, that have the experience and
2	capability to—
3	"(A) deploy training, counseling, work-
4	shops, educational outreach, and supplier
5	events; and
6	"(B) access the entrepreneurial, capital,
7	and contracting programs of the Administra-
8	tion, including the Community Navigator pilot
9	program;
10	"(8) assist the Administrator in conducting, or
11	conduct, Tribal consultation to solicit input and fa-
12	cilitate discussion of potential modifications to pro-
13	grams and procedures of the Administration; and
14	"(9) recommend annual budgets for the Office.
15	"(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
16	is authorized to be appropriated to the Office to carry out
17	this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
18	through 2026.".