

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4788

To strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2016

Ms. ADAMS (for herself and Mr. HANNA) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the
SCORE program, 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 “SCORE for Small
5 Business Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. SCORE REAUTHORIZATION.**

7 Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631
8 note) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-
10 section (f); and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(g) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be
3 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the
4 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums
5 as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or
6 enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that
7 does not exceed \$10,500,000 in each of fiscal years 2017
8 and 2018.”.

9 **SEC. 3. SCORE PROGRAM.**

10 Section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637)
11 is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “a Serv-
13 ice Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)” and in-
14 sserting “the SCORE program described in sub-
15 section (c)”;

16 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(c) SCORE PROGRAM.—

19 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection:

20 “(A) SCORE ASSOCIATION.—The term
21 ‘SCORE Association’ means the Service Corps
22 of Retired Executives Association or any suc-
23 cessor or other organization who receives a
24 grant from the Administrator to operate the
25 SCORE program under paragraph (2)(A).

1 “(B) SCORE PROGRAM.—The term
2 ‘SCORE program’ means the SCORE program
3 authorized by subsection (b)(1)(B).

4 “(2) MANAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
6 shall provide a grant to the SCORE Association
7 to manage the SCORE program.

8 “(B) VOLUNTEERS.—A volunteer partici-
9 pating in the SCORE program shall—

10 “(i) based on the business experience
11 and knowledge of the volunteer—

12 “(I) provide at no cost to individ-
13 uals who own, or aspire to own, small
14 business concerns personal counseling,
15 mentoring, and coaching relating to
16 the process of starting, expanding,
17 managing, buying, and selling a busi-
18 ness; and

19 “(II) facilitate low-cost education
20 workshops for individuals who own, or
21 aspire to own, small business con-
22 cerns; and

23 “(ii) as appropriate, use tools, re-
24 sources, and expertise of other organiza-
25 tions to carry out the SCORE program.

1 “(3) PLANS AND GOALS.—The Administrator,
2 in consultation with the SCORE Association, shall
3 ensure that the SCORE program and each chapter
4 of the SCORE program develop and implement
5 plans and goals to more effectively and efficiently
6 provide services to individuals in rural areas, eco-
7 nomically disadvantaged communities, and other tra-
8 ditionally underserved communities, including plans
9 for electronic initiatives, web-based initiatives, chap-
10 ter expansion, partnerships, and the development of
11 new skills by volunteers participating in the SCORE
12 program.

13 “(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—The SCORE Associa-
14 tion shall submit to the Administrator an annual re-
15 port that contains—

16 “(A) the number of individuals counseled
17 or trained under the SCORE program;

18 “(B) the number of hours of counseling
19 provided under the SCORE program; and

20 “(C) to the extent possible—

21 “(i) the number of small business con-
22 cerns formed with assistance from the
23 SCORE program;

1 “(ii) the number of small business
2 concerns expanded with assistance from
3 the SCORE program; and

4 “(iii) the number of jobs created with
5 assistance from the SCORE program.

6 “(5) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Adminis-
8 trator nor the SCORE Association may disclose
9 the name, address, or telephone number of any
10 individual or small business concern receiving
11 assistance from the SCORE Association with-
12 out the consent of such individual or small busi-
13 ness concern, unless—

14 “(i) the Administrator is ordered to
15 make such a disclosure by a court in any
16 civil or criminal enforcement action initi-
17 ated by a Federal or State agency; or

18 “(ii) the Administrator determines
19 such a disclosure to be necessary for the
20 purpose of conducting a financial audit of
21 the SCORE program, in which case disclo-
22 sure shall be limited to the information
23 necessary for the audit.

24 “(B) ADMINISTRATOR USE OF INFORMA-
25 TION.—This paragraph shall not—

1 “(i) restrict the access of the Adminis-
2 trator to program activity data; or

3 “(ii) prevent the Administrator from
4 using client information to conduct client
5 surveys.

6 “(C) REGULATIONS.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
8 shall issue regulations to establish stand-
9 ards for—

10 “(I) disclosures with respect to
11 financial audits under subparagraph
12 (A)(ii); and

13 “(II) conducting client surveys,
14 including standards for oversight of
15 the surveys and for dissemination and
16 use of client information.

17 “(ii) MAXIMUM PRIVACY PROTEC-
18 TION.—The regulations issued under this
19 subparagraph shall, to the extent prac-
20 ticable, provide for the maximum amount
21 of privacy protection.”.

22 **SEC. 4. ONLINE COMPONENT.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(e) of the Small Busi-
24 ness Act, as added by section 3, is further amended by
25 adding at the end the following:

1 “(6) ONLINE COMPONENT.—In carrying out
2 this subsection, the SCORE Association shall make
3 use of online counseling, including by developing and
4 implementing webinars and an electronic mentoring
5 platform to expand access to services provided under
6 this subsection and to further support entre-
7 preneurs.”.

8 (b) ONLINE COMPONENT REPORT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—At the end of fiscal year
10 2018, the SCORE Association shall issue a report to
11 the Committee on Small Business of the House of
12 Representatives and the Committee on Small Busi-
13 ness and Entrepreneurship of the Senate on the ef-
14 fectiveness of the online counseling and webinars re-
15 quired as part of the SCORE program, including—

16 (A) how the SCORE Association deter-
17 mines electronic mentoring and webinar needs,
18 develops training for electronic mentoring, es-
19 tablishes webinar criteria curricula, and evalu-
20 ates webinar and electronic mentoring results;

21 (B) describing the internal controls that
22 are used and a summary of the topics covered
23 by the webinars; and

24 (C) performance metrics, including the
25 number of small business concerns counseled

1 by, the number of small business concerns cre-
2 ated by, the number of jobs created and re-
3 tained by, and the funding amounts directed to-
4 wards such online counseling and webinars.

5 (2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
6 section, the terms “SCORE Association” and
7 “SCORE program” have the meaning given those
8 terms, respectively, under section 8(c)(1) of the
9 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(c)(1)).

10 **SEC. 5. STUDY AND REPORT ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE**
11 **SCORE PROGRAM.**

12 (a) STUDY.—The SCORE Association shall carry out
13 a study on the future role of the SCORE program and
14 develop a strategic plan for how the SCORE program will
15 evolve to meet the needs of America’s entrepreneurs over
16 the course of the next 5 years, with markers and specific
17 objectives for year 1, year 3, and year 5.

18 (b) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-month
19 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
20 the SCORE Association shall issue a report to the Com-
21 mittee on Small Business of the House of Representatives
22 and the Committee on small Business and Entrepreneur-
23 ship of the Senate containing—

24 (1) all findings and determination made in car-
25 rying out the study required under subsection (a);

1 (2) the strategic plan developed under sub-
2 section (a); and

3 (3) an explanation of how the SCORE Associa-
4 tion plans to achieve the strategic plan, assuming
5 both stagnant and increased funding levels.

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the
7 terms “SCORE Association” and “SCORE program”
8 have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under
9 section 8(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
10 637(c)(1)).

11 **SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

12 (a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act
13 (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

14 (1) in section 7(m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII) (15 U.S.C.
15 636(m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII)), by striking “Service Corps
16 of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE pro-
17 gram”; and

18 (2) in section 22 (15 U.S.C. 649)—

19 (A) in subsection (b)—

20 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking
21 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and
22 inserting “SCORE program”; and

23 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking
24 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and
25 inserting “SCORE program”; and

1 (B) in subsection (c)(12), by striking
2 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and in-
3 serting “SCORE program”.

4 (b) OTHER LAWS.—

5 (1) Section 621 of the Children’s Health Insur-
6 ance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (15
7 U.S.C. 657p) is amended—

8 (A) in subsection (a), by striking para-
9 graph (4) and inserting the following:

10 “(4) the term ‘SCORE program’ means the
11 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1)(B)
12 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
13 637(b)(1)(B));”; and

14 (B) in subsection (b)(4)(A)(iv), by striking
15 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and in-
16 serting “SCORE program”.

17 (2) Section 337(d)(2)(A) of the Energy Policy
18 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6307(d)(2)(A)) is
19 amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Ex-
20 ecutives (SCORE)” and inserting “SCORE pro-
21 gram”.

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