

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6450

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship

AN ACT

To amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “SCORE for Small
3 Business Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. SCORE PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND REQUIRE-**
5 **MENTS.**

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

8 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B)—

9 (A) by striking “a Service Corps of Retired
10 Executives (SCORE)” and inserting “the
11 SCORE program described in subsection (c)”;
12 and

13 (B) by striking “SCORE may” and insert-
14 ing “the SCORE Association (as defined in
15 subsection (c)) may”; and

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

18 “(c) SCORE PROGRAM.—

19 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—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 that enters into a
24 cooperative agreement (as described under
25 paragraph (2)) with the Administrator to oper-
26 ate the SCORE program.

1 “(B) SCORE FOUNDATION.—The term
2 ‘SCORE Foundation’ means an organization
3 with a mission to support the SCORE Associa-
4 tion and volunteers of the SCORE program.

5 “(C) SCORE PROGRAM.—The term
6 ‘SCORE program’ means the SCORE program
7 authorized by subsection (b)(1)(B).

8 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Admin-
9 istrator shall enter into a cooperative agreement
10 with the SCORE Association to carry out the
11 SCORE program, which shall include the following
12 requirements:

13 “(A) ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES.—The Ad-
14 ministrator shall—

15 “(i) every 2 years, conduct a financial
16 examination of the SCORE Association to
17 ensure that any costs paid for with Federal
18 funds are allowable, allocable, and reason-
19 able;

20 “(ii) review and approve contracts en-
21 tered into by the SCORE Association to
22 provide goods or services for the SCORE
23 program of a value greater than an
24 amount determined by the Administrator;

1 “(iii) maintain a system through
2 which the SCORE Association provides
3 documentation relating to such contracts;
4 and

5 “(iv) within 30 days of the receipt of
6 a quarterly report on the achievements of
7 the SCORE program submitted by the
8 SCORE Association, reconcile differences
9 between such report and the performance
10 results of the SCORE program reported in
11 a management information system of the
12 Office of Entrepreneurial Development.

13 “(B) SCORE ASSOCIATION DUTIES.—The
14 SCORE Association shall—

15 “(i) manage nationwide chapters of
16 the SCORE program;

17 “(ii) provide annual training to em-
18 ployees of the SCORE Association on gen-
19 erating and using program income from
20 the SCORE program;

21 “(iii) submit documentation to the
22 Administrator verifying such annual train-
23 ing is completed;

24 “(iv) separate funds donated to the
25 SCORE Association from program income

1 and funds received pursuant to a coopera-
2 tive agreement; and

3 “(v) maintain and enforce require-
4 ments for volunteers participating in the
5 SCORE program, including requirements
6 that each such volunteer shall—

7 “(I) based on the business expe-
8 rience and knowledge of the volun-
9 teer—

10 “(aa) provide personal coun-
11 seling, mentoring, and coaching
12 on the process of starting, ex-
13 panding, managing, buying, and
14 selling a business at no cost to
15 individuals who own, or aspire to
16 own, small business concerns;
17 and

18 “(bb) facilitate free or low-
19 cost education workshops for in-
20 dividuals who own, or aspire to
21 own, small business concerns;
22 and

23 “(II) as appropriate, use tools,
24 resources, and expertise of other orga-

1 nizations to carry out the SCORE
2 program.

3 “(C) JOINT DUTIES.—The Administrator,
4 in consultation with the SCORE Association,
5 shall ensure that the SCORE program and each
6 chapter of the SCORE program—

7 “(i) develop and implement plans and
8 goals to effectively and efficiently provide
9 services to individuals in rural areas, eco-
10 nomically disadvantaged communities, or
11 other traditionally underserved commu-
12 nities, including plans for virtual, remote,
13 and web-based initiatives, chapter expan-
14 sion, partnerships, and the development of
15 new skills by volunteers participating in
16 the SCORE program; and

17 “(ii) reinforce an inclusive culture by
18 recruiting diverse volunteers for the chap-
19 ters of the SCORE program.

20 “(3) ONLINE COMPONENT.—In addition to pro-
21 viding in-person services, the SCORE Association
22 shall maintain and expand online counseling services
23 including webinars, electronic mentoring platforms,
24 and online toolkits to further support entrepreneurs.

1 “(4) ACCOUNTING.—The SCORE Association
2 shall—

3 “(A) maintain a centralized accounting
4 and financing system for each chapter of the
5 SCORE program;

6 “(B) maintain a uniform policy and proce-
7 dures to manage Federal funds received pursu-
8 ant to a cooperative agreement described in
9 paragraph (2); and

10 “(C) maintain an employee of the SCORE
11 Association to serve as a compliance officer to
12 ensure expenditures of the SCORE program are
13 fully compliant with any law, regulation, or co-
14 operative agreement relating to the SCORE
15 program.

16 “(5) COMPENSATION.—

17 “(A) SALARIES.—The salary of an em-
18 ployee of the SCORE Association may not ex-
19 ceed the equivalent of the maximum rate of pay
20 allowable for an individual in the career Senior
21 Executive Service employed at the Administra-
22 tion.

23 “(B) PERFORMANCE AWARDS.—The
24 SCORE Association may spend up to 5 percent
25 of the aggregate salaries of employees of the

1 SCORE Association on individual performance
2 awards to employees of the SCORE Associa-
3 tion, to be disbursed before the last day of the
4 fiscal year, if not later than 60 days before such
5 disbursement the SCORE Association submits
6 to the Administrator a report on the number
7 and amount of such awards to be disbursed.

8 “(C) SCORE FOUNDATION.—A member of
9 the Board of Directors of the SCORE Associa-
10 tion or an employee of the SCORE Association
11 may not simultaneously serve on the Board of
12 Directors of, or receive compensation from, the
13 SCORE Foundation without written approval
14 from the Administrator.

15 “(6) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION REQUIRE-
16 MENTS.—The SCORE Association shall—

17 “(A) annually update all manuals or other
18 documents applicable to employees and volun-
19 teers of the SCORE Association or the SCORE
20 program to include requirements relating to re-
21 porting procedures and protectors for whistle-
22 blowers; and

23 “(B) conduct an annual training for em-
24 ployees and volunteers of the SCORE Associa-
25 tion or the SCORE program on the require-

1 ments described in paragraph (1) and encour-
2 age the use of the hotline established by the Of-
3 fice of the Inspector General of the Small Busi-
4 ness Administration to submit whistleblower re-
5 ports.

6 “(7) PUBLISHED MATERIALS.—The SCORE
7 Association shall ensure all published materials in-
8 clude written acknowledgment of Small Business Ad-
9 ministration support of the SCORE program if such
10 materials are paid for in whole or in part by Federal
11 funds.

12 “(8) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Adminis-
14 trator nor the SCORE Association may disclose
15 the name, address, or telephone number of any
16 individual or small business concern receiving
17 assistance from the SCORE Association with-
18 out the consent of such individual or small busi-
19 ness concern, unless—

20 “(i) the Administrator is ordered to
21 make such a disclosure by a court in any
22 civil or criminal enforcement action initi-
23 ated by a Federal or State agency; or

24 “(ii) the Administrator determines
25 such a disclosure is necessary for the pur-

pose of conducting a financial audit of the SCORE program, in which case disclosure shall be limited to the information necessary for the audit.

“(B) ADMINISTRATOR USE OF INFORMATION.—This paragraph shall not—

“(i) restrict the access of the Administrator to SCORE program activity data; or

“(ii) prevent the Administrator from using SCORE program client information to conduct client surveys.

“(C) STANDARDS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, after the opportunity for notice and comment, establish standards for—

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

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

“(ii) MAXIMUM PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The standards issued under this subparagraph shall, to the extent prac-

1 ticable, provide for the maximum amount
2 of privacy protection.

3 “(9) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180
4 days after the date of the enactment of this sub-
5 section and annually thereafter, the Administrator
6 shall submit to the Committee on Small Business
7 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Com-
8 mittee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives a report on the performance and effec-
10 tiveness of the SCORE program, which may be in-
11 cluded as part of another report submitted to such
12 Committees by the Administrator, and which shall
13 include—

14 “(A) the total number and the number of
15 unique clients counseled or trained under the
16 SCORE program;

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

19 “(C) the number of local workshops pro-
20 vided under the SCORE program;

21 “(D) the number of clients attending on-
22 line and local workshops provided under the
23 SCORE program;

24 “(E) to the extent practicable, the demo-
25 graphics of SCORE program clients and volun-

1 teers, which shall include the gender, race, and
2 age of each such client or volunteer;

3 “(F) with respect to businesses assisted
4 under the SCORE program, the cost to create
5 a job, the cost to create a business, and return
6 on investment;

7 “(G) the number of referrals of SCORE
8 program clients to other resources and pro-
9 grams of the Administration;

10 “(H) the number of SCORE program cli-
11 ents receiving financial assistance, including the
12 type and dollar amount, under loan programs of
13 the Administration;

14 “(I) the results of SCORE program client
15 satisfactory surveys, including a summary of
16 any comments received from such clients;

17 “(J) the number of new businesses started
18 up by SCORE program clients;

19 “(K) the number of such new businesses
20 realizing revenue growth;

21 “(L) to the extent practicable, the number
22 of jobs created with assistance from the
23 SCORE program;

24 “(M) the total cost of the SCORE pro-
25 gram;

1 “(N) any recommendations of the Adminis-
 2 trator to improve the SCORE program; and

3 “(O) an explanation of how the SCORE
 4 program has been integrated with—

5 “(i) small business development cen-
 6 ters;

7 “(ii) women’s business centers (de-
 8 scribed under section 29);

9 “(iii) Veteran Business Outreach Cen-
 10 ters 20 (described under section 32);

11 “(iv) other offices of the Administra-
 12 tion; and

13 “(v) other public and private entities
 14 engaging in entrepreneurial and small
 15 business development.”.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**
 17 **SCORE PROGRAM.**

18 Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631
 19 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new
 20 subsection:

21 “(i) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be
 22 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the
 23 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums
 24 as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or
 25 enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that

1 does not exceed \$13,500,000 in each of fiscal years 2022
2 and 2023.”.

3 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

4 (a) STUDY AND REPORT ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF
5 THE SCORE PROGRAM.—

6 (1) STUDY.—The SCORE Association shall
7 carry out a study on the future role of the SCORE
8 program and develop a strategic plan for how the
9 SCORE program will meet the needs of small busi-
10 ness concerns during the 5-year period beginning on
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, with specific
12 objectives for the first, third, and fifth years of such
13 5-year period.

14 (2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-
15 month period beginning on the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act, the SCORE Association shall sub-
17 mit to the Committee on Small Business of the
18 House of Representatives and the Committee on
19 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate
20 a report containing—

21 (A) all findings and determination made in
22 carrying out the study required under para-
23 graph (1);

24 (B) the strategic plan developed under
25 paragraph (1); and

1 (C) an explanation of how the SCORE As-
2 sociation plans to achieve the strategic plan, as-
3 suming both stagnant and increased funding
4 levels.

5 (b) ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON LEASED SPACE.—
6 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
7 this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Admin-
8 istration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business
9 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
10 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a re-
11 port containing an assessment of the cost of leased space
12 that is donated to the SCORE Association.

13 (c) ONLINE COMPONENT REPORT.—Not later than
14 3 months after the last day of the first full fiscal year
15 following the date of the enactment of this Act, the
16 SCORE Association shall submit to the Committee on
17 Small Business of the House of Representatives and the
18 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
19 the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the online coun-
20 seling services required under paragraph (3) of section
21 8(c) of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2 of
22 this Act, including a description of—

23 (1) how the SCORE Association determines
24 electronic mentoring and webinar needs, develops
25 training for electronic mentoring, establishes

1 webinar criteria curricula, and evaluates webinar
2 and electronic mentoring results;

3 (2) the internal controls that are used and a
4 summary of the topics covered by the webinars; and

5 (3) performance metrics, including the number
6 of small business concerns counseled by, the number
7 of small business concerns created by, the number of
8 jobs created and retained by, and the funding
9 amounts directed towards such online counseling
10 services.

11 **SEC. 5. 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 (15 U.S.C. 636)—

15 (A) in subsection (b)(12)—

16 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
17 serting “PROGRAM” after “SCORE”; and

18 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and
20 inserting “SCORE program”; and

21 (B) in subsection (m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII), by
22 striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives”
23 and inserting “SCORE program”; and

24 (2) in section 22 (15 U.S.C. 649)—

25 (A) in subsection (b)—

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

4 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking
5 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and
6 inserting “SCORE program”; and

7 (B) in subsection (c)(12), by striking
8 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and in-
9 serting “SCORE program”.

10 (b) OTHER LAWS.—

11 (1) SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT
12 OF 1997.—Section 707 of the Small Business Reau-
13 thorization Act of 1997 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is
14 amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Ex-
15 ecutives (SCORE) program” and inserting “SCORE
16 program (as defined in section 8(c)(1) of the Small
17 Business Act)”.

18 (2) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND
19 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.—Sec-
20 tion 301 of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and
21 Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C.
22 657b note) is amended by striking “Service Core of
23 Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE pro-
24 gram”.

1 (3) MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL
 2 BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY
 3 ACT OF 2008.—Section 3(5) of the Military Reservist
 4 and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and
 5 Opportunity Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is
 6 amended by striking “the Service Corps of Retired
 7 Executives” and inserting “the SCORE program”.

8 (4) CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
 9 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009.—Section 621 of the
 10 Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthoriza-
 11 tion Act of 2009 (15 U.S.C. 657p) is amended—

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

14 “(4) the term ‘SCORE program’ means the
 15 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1)(B)
 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 17 637(b)(1)(B));”; and

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

21 (5) ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION
 22 ACT.—Section 337(d)(2)(A) of the Energy Policy
 23 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6307(d)(2)(A)) is
 24 amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Ex-

4 In this Act:

(2) SCORE ASSOCIATION; SCORE PROGRAM.—
The terms “SCORE Association” and “SCORE pro-
gram” have the meaning given those terms, respec-
tively, under section 8(c)(1) of the Small Business
Act, as added by section 2 of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives April 26, 2022.

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