

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HICKENLOOPER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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 and Opportunity Act of 2023”.

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
10 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 ministrators 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

1 Native businesses and economic development in In-
2 dian country.

3 “(2) CONNECTION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—

4 To the extent reasonable, the Office shall connect
5 Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations to
6 programs administered by other Federal agencies re-
7 lated to the interests described in paragraph (1).

8 “(3) FIELD OFFICES.—The Office may estab-

9 lish field offices within such regional offices of the
10 Administration as may be necessary, with initial
11 focus on those parts of Indian Country most eco-
12 nomically disadvantaged, to perform efficiently the
13 functions and responsibilities of the Office.

14 “(c) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Office shall
15 be headed by an Associate Administrator for Native Amer-
16 ican Affairs, who shall—

17 “(1) be appointed by and report to the Admin-
18 istrator;

19 “(2) have knowledge of Native American cul-
20 tures and experience providing culturally tailored
21 small business development assistance to Native
22 Americans;

23 “(3) carry out the program to provide assist-
24 ance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organi-
25 zations and small business concerns owned and con-

1 trolled by individuals who are members of those
2 groups;

3 “(4) administer and manage Native American
4 outreach expansion;

5 “(5) enhance assistance to Native Americans by
6 formulating and promoting policies, programs, and
7 assistance that better address their entrepreneurial,
8 capital access, business development, and con-
9 tracting needs, and collaborate with other Associate
10 Administrators and intergovernmental leaders with
11 similar missions across Federal agencies on the de-
12 velopment of policies and plans to implement new
13 programs of the Administration, while
14 supplementing existing Federal programs to holis-
15 tically serve those needs;

16 “(6) act as an ombudsman for Native Ameri-
17 cans for programs of the Administration;

18 “(7) provide grants, contracts, cooperative
19 agreements, or other financial assistance to Indian
20 Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations, or to
21 private nonprofit organizations governed by mem-
22 bers of those entities, that have the experience and
23 capability to—

1 “(A) deploy training, counseling, work-
2 shops, educational outreach, and supplier
3 events; and

4 “(B) access the entrepreneurial, capital,
5 and contracting programs of the Administra-
6 tion, including the Community Navigator pilot
7 program;

8 “(8) assist the Administrator in conducting, or
9 conduct, Tribal consultation to solicit input and fa-
10 cilitate discussion of potential modifications to pro-
11 grams and procedures of the Administration; and

12 “(9) recommend annual budgets for the Office.

13 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 is authorized to be appropriated to the Office such sums
15 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through
16 2028 to carry out this section.”.