

119TH 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 2025”.

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, such as the

1 program under section 8(a), to revitalize Native
2 businesses and economic development in Indian
3 country.

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

9 “(3) ALTERNATIVE WORK SITES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office may estab-
11 lish alternative work sites within such regional
12 offices of the Administration as may be nec-
13 essary, with initial focus on those parts of In-
14 dian Country most economically disadvantaged,
15 to perform efficiently the functions and respon-
16 sibilities of the Office.

17 “(B) PROHIBITION.—The alternative work
18 sites established under subparagraph (A) shall
19 not be field offices of the Administration.

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

23 “(1) be appointed by and report to the Admin-
24 istrator;

1 “(2) have knowledge of Native American cul-
2 tures and experience providing culturally tailored
3 small business development assistance to Native
4 Americans;

5 “(3) carry out the program to provide assist-
6 ance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organi-
7 zations and small business concerns owned and con-
8 trolled by individuals who are members of those
9 groups;

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

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

23 “(6) provide grants, contracts, cooperative
24 agreements, or other financial assistance to Indian
25 Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations, or to

1 private nonprofit organizations governed by mem-
2 bers of those entities, that have the experience and
3 capability to—

4 “(A) deploy training, counseling, work-
5 shops, educational outreach, and supplier
6 events; and

7 “(B) access the entrepreneurial, capital,
8 and contracting programs of the Administra-
9 tion;

10 “(7) 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 “(8) recommend annual budgets for the Office.

15 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 is authorized to be appropriated to the Office such sums
17 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2026 through
18 2030 to carry out this section.”.