116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

# S. _____

To reauthorize and improve the Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Ms. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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# A BILL

To reauthorize and improve the Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Program.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the ''Defense Small Business Advancement Act of 2019''.

**SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM.**

(a) PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION.—Section 831of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

1991 (Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended by striking subsection (j).

(b) OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS OVERSIGHT.—Section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (n) as subsection (o); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (m) the following new subsection:

''(n) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE GOALS AND PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The Office of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense shall establish performance goals and conduct periodic reviews of approved agreements between mentors and protégés.''.

(c) REMOVAL OF PILOT PROGRAM REFERENCES.—Section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading for subsection (a), by striking ''PILOT''; and

(2) by striking ''pilot'' each place it appears.

(d) INDEPENDENT REPORT ON PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31, 2022, an independent third party selected by the Department of Defense Office of Small Business Programs shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report evaluating the effectiveness of the Mentor-Protégé Program established under section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note), including recommendations for improving the program in terms of performance metrics, forms of assistance, and overall program effectiveness.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''congressional defense committees'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code.