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Legislative Bulletin.....July 8, 2009

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Amendments to H.R. 2965—The Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act

H.R. 2965, the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act (sponsored by *Rep. Altmire, D-NC*), is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, subject to a structured rule ([H.Res.610](#)), making in order the following 5 amendments. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, except earmark and “pay-go” violations. The rule allows one hour of debate and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule allows the Chair to reduce to *two minutes* the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

1. *Velazquez (D-NY)*. The Manager’s amendment t adds several provisions to the bill including:
 - **Minority Institution Program:** Amends the Small Business Act to provide grants for minority institutions that partner with non-profit organizations that have experience developing relationships with industry, minority institutions, and other entities for participation the SBIR and STIR programs. An authorization of \$8 million over two years is provided to carry out the new program.
 - **Unemployment:** Gives preference for SBIR and STIR projects in regions that have lost a major source of unemployment as determined by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.
 - **Veterans Participation:** Increases grant awards for a small businesses owned by a veteran to \$300,000 for Phase I and to \$2,250,000 for Phase II of the SBIR program. Additionally, it requires federal agencies to give priority to applications from veterans for SBIR and STTR programs.

- ***Water Use:*** Requires federal agencies that participate in the SBIR to issue a solicitation for proposals to improve the efficiency of water delivery systems within a year of the enactment.
 - ***Native Americans:*** Amends the bill to increase outreach efforts to Native Americans under the rural outreach preference of the Act.
2. **Brown-Waite (R-FL).** Requires that within one year of enactment, the Comptroller General to conduct a study to evaluate Section 102 of bill (venture capitol participation).
 3. ***Kosmas (D-FL).*** Requires assistance for small businesses affected by the termination of the Space Shuttle program under the commercialization program of the Act.
 4. **Reichert(R-WA)/Smith (D-WA).** Requires that grant preference be given to outreach organizations that are located in underrepresented states and regions, or are women-, service-disabled veterans- or minority-owned.
 5. **Paulsen (R-MN).** Amends the Small Business Act to make “research topics relating to medical technology” eligible to qualify for “special consideration” for SBIR projects.

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