

S 3362

SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: Jul 29, 2008

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 943.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 943. (Aug 22, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/3362>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]

Party: Democratic • State: MA • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jul 29, 2008
Sen. Bayh, Evan [D-IN]	D · IN		Jul 31, 2008
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 31, 2008
Sen. Coleman, Norm [R-MN]	R · MN		Jul 31, 2008
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Jul 31, 2008
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Jul 31, 2008
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Aug 1, 2008
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Aug 1, 2008
Sen. Salazar, Ken [D-CO]	D · CO		Sep 8, 2008
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Sep 10, 2008
Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Sep 10, 2008
Sen. Domenici, Pete V. [R-NM]	R · NM		Sep 11, 2008
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Sep 11, 2008
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 15, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Senate	Reported By	Aug 22, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

**Related Bills**

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*No related bills are listed.*

**(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)**

SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2008 - **Title I: Reauthorization of the SBIR and STTR Programs** - (Sec. 101)

Amends the Small Business Act (the Act) to reauthorize through: (1) FY2022 the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR); and (2) FY2023 the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs of the Small Business Administration (SBA).

(Sec. 102) Directs the SBA to maintain an Office of Technology to carry out oversight, reporting, and public database responsibilities as assigned by the SBA Administrator.

(Sec. 103) Increases by 0.1% per year, from FY2010-FY2019, the percentage of participating federal agencies' extramural research budget to be set aside for SBIR program activities. Requires the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Energy (DOE) to use the increased amounts for activities in their respective departments that further the technology readiness levels of technologies being developed under Phase II SBIR awards. Makes such increased fund usage inapplicable to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

(Sec. 104) Increases the set-aside allocation under the STTR from 0.3% to 0.6% by increasing such percentage by 0.1% every two years from FY2010-FY2014.

(Sec. 105) Increases, for both the SBIR and STTR programs, the individual small business award levels from: (1) \$100,000 to \$150,000, for participation at the Phase I level; and (2) \$750,000 to \$1 million, for participation at the Phase II level. Changes from every five to every three years the required SBA inflation adjustment of such awards. Prohibits an agency from issuing an SBIR or STTR award if the award size exceeds established guidelines by more than 50%, and requires participating agencies to maintain specified information on awards exceeding such guidelines.

(Sec. 106) Allows a small business that receives an: (1) SBIR award from one agency to receive an award for a subsequent phase from another agency, as long as the head of each agency certifies that the topics of the relevant awards are the same; and (2) award under either the SBIR or STTR program to receive an award for a subsequent phase under either program.

(Sec. 107) Requires federal agencies to conduct solicitations of Phase II SBIR and STTR proposals without any invitation, pre-screening, pre-selection, or down-selection process between the first and second phases.

(Sec. 108) Authorizes the head of the SBIR program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 30 days after notifying the Administrator and the congressional small business committees, to award up to 18% of NIH SBIR funds to small businesses owned by multiple venture capital companies. (Other federal agencies may currently award up to 8% of their SBIR funds to such small businesses.) Directs the Administrator to establish requirements relating to the affiliation of small businesses with venture capital companies for such purposes, and requires such small businesses to register with the SBA. Provides for federal agency compliance with such percentage limits. Directs the Administrator to post on the SBA website information on SBIR program affiliation standards.

(Sec. 109) States as the intent of Congress that federal agencies and federal prime contractors shall issue Phase II awards, including sole source awards, to the SBIR and STTR award recipients that developed the technology.

(Sec. 110) Authorizes the head of each participating federal agency to issue SBIR and STTR awards to small businesses that have entered or intend to enter into a collaborative research and development (R&D) agreement with a federal laboratory or federally funded research and development center. Prohibits a federal agency from: (1) conditioning an award upon entering into such an agreement; (2) approving an agreement if the small business performs a lesser portion of the R&D activities than required by the Act and by SBIR and STTR Policy Directives; or (3) approving an agreement that violates any SBA provision or such Directives. Requires the Administrator to modify such Directives to ensure that small businesses may use the resources of federal laboratories or federally funded research and development centers without entering into such agreements.

(Sec. 111) Requires any federal agency involved in a judicial or administrative case or controversy concerning the SBIR or STTR program to provide timely notice thereof to the Administrator.

**Title II: Outreach and Commercialization Initiatives** - (Sec. 201) Reauthorizes through FY2014 the Federal and State Technology Partnership (FAST) and Rural Outreach programs. Increases the annual authorization for the latter program. Provides for the establishment of initiatives to utilize businesses owned and controlled by women and minorities, or small businesses in underutilized communities, in order to increase their involvement in the SBIR and STTR programs.

(Sec. 202) Directs the Administrator to establish a SBIR-STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) workforce development grant pilot program to encourage the business community to provide workforce development opportunities for college students in such fields by providing an SBIR grant to be used for internships. Authorizes appropriations.

(Sec. 203) Increases the discretionary technical assistance that SBIR and STTR agencies can provide to awardees (by contracting out) from \$4,000 to \$5,000 for Phase I awards, and from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year for Phase II awards. Allows awardees to use such amounts to select their own technical assistance contractor in lieu of the vendor selected by the agency.

(Sec. 204) Reauthorizes through FY2014 DOD's Commercialization Pilot Program (CPP), and extends such program to the STTR program. (Currently, the Commercialization Pilot Program is only authorized to be utilized under the SBIR program.) Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to establish goals for transitioning Phase III technologies in subcontracting plans for contracts of \$100 million or more. Requires the Secretary to: (1) set a goal of increasing the number of Phase II contracts that lead to technology transition into DOD programs of record or fielded systems; (2) use incentives to encourage DOD agency program managers and prime contractors to meet such goal; and (3) include within annual congressional reporting requirements information on the status of projects funded through the CPP.

(Sec. 205) Authorizes the head of each federal agency other than DOD to set aside up to 10% of SBIR and STTR funds for further technology development, testing, and evaluation of SBIR and STTR Phase II technologies.

(Sec. 206) Requires each federal SBIR/STTR participant to encourage the submission of applications for support of nanotechnology-related projects.

(Sec. 207) Establishes an advisory board at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct periodic SBIR program evaluations in order to improve program management through data-driven assessment. Requires the director of the NIH SBIR program to address gaps and deficiencies in data collection identified in a NAS report assessing the NIH's SBIR program. Authorizes such director to initiate a pilot program to test new strategies to enhance the development of data collection capabilities. Requires such director to report annually to Congress and the advisory board on NIH SBIR activities. Requires such director, to the maximum extent practicable, to reduce to six months the period between SBIR

Phases I and II. Terminates the requirements of this section five years after the enactment of this Act.

**Title III: Oversight and Evaluation** - (Sec. 301) Directs the SBA, in currently-required annual reports, to include information on: (1) proposals received from small businesses with venture capital investment; (2) efforts to increase outreach to small businesses owned and controlled by women and minorities; (3) implementation and compliance with requirements concerning the allocation of funding to small businesses owned and controlled by multiple venture capital companies; and (4) appeals of Phase III awards, as well as notices of noncompliance with SBIR and STTR Policy Directives. Directs the SBA to coordinate the implementation of electronic databases at participating federal agencies.

(Sec. 302) Requires agencies with an SBIR or STTR program to collect information similar to that outlined above for program assessment purposes.

(Sec. 304) Requires specified information to be included in public and government databases maintained by the SBA concerning SBIR and STTR awardees.

(Sec. 306) Directs the Comptroller General (CG), every three years, to: (1) conduct a fiscal and management audit of the SBIR and STTR programs; and (2) report audit results to the small business committees.

(Sec. 307) Amends the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000 to continue NAS evaluation of the SBIR program, as well as reports on such evaluation from the National Research Council to participating agency heads and the small business committees. Require updates every four years.

(Sec. 308) Requires the SBA to include in an annual report to Congress specified information on Phase III awards issued by federal agencies participating in the SBIR and STTR programs.

(Sec. 309) Directs the CG to conduct a study of, and report to the small business committees on, federal agency compliance with data rights and technologies protection for SBIR awardees.

**Title IV: Policy Directives** - (Sec. 401) Requires the Administrator: (1) within 180 days after the enactment of this Act, to promulgate amendments to the SBIR and STTR Policy Directives to conform them to this Act and its amendments; and (2) publish the amended Directives in the Federal Register.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Aug 22, 2008:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Reported by Senator Kerry under authority of the order of the Senate of 08/01/2008 without amendment. With written report No. 110-447.
- **Aug 22, 2008:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 943.
- **Jul 30, 2008:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Jul 29, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 29, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S7637-7638)
- **Jul 29, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.