

## S 3247

### Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Jul 19, 2018

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 115-428.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 115-428. (Jan 9, 2019)

**Law:** 115-428 (Enacted Jan 9, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3247>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** AR • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 19, 2018
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jul 19, 2018
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 19, 2018
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jul 23, 2018
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 25, 2018
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Jul 30, 2018
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 31, 2018
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Aug 15, 2018
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Sep 6, 2018
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Sep 12, 2018
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		Nov 29, 2018
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Dec 17, 2018

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Nov 29, 2018

## Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

International Affairs

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 5480	Related bill	<b>Jul 18, 2018:</b> Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## Summary (as of Jan 9, 2019)

### Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018

This bill modifies U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs to provide targeted assistance for women.

USAID strategies and projects shall be shaped by analysis to address gender differences, including how results may be different for men and women due to issues such as gender roles and structural barriers.

The President is authorized to provide programs in developing countries for micro, small, and medium-sized businesses, particularly those owned, managed, and controlled by women. Previously, authorization for such programs was largely limited to microenterprises. The President is also authorized to provide targeted assistance programs that promote economic empowerment of women, including through increased access to financial resources, improving property and inheritance rights, and other legal protections.

For sustainable poverty-focused programs, half of resources targeting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises shall be for activities that reach the very poor. Half of resources for programs for small and medium-sized enterprises shall be for activities targeting enterprises owned, managed, or controlled by women.

The bill directs USAID to modify its system for monitoring its programs to include outcomes broken down by gender, when feasible.

The President is authorized to expand the micro and small business development credit program to provide such assistance to medium-sized businesses as well.

The bill also directs USAID to break down various information in its annual report by gender and income level. USAID shall also report to Congress on the implementation of this bill. The Government Accountability Office shall report to Congress an assessment of the effect of development assistance for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, and the extent to which such aid benefits women and the very poor.

## Actions Timeline

---

- **Jan 9, 2019:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 9, 2019:** Became Public Law No: 115-428.
- **Jan 2, 2019:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Mr. Royce (CA) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10550-10553)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 3247.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H10576-10577)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 352 - 18 (Roll no. 492).(text: CR H10550-10552)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 352 - 18 (Roll no. 492). (text: CR H10550-10552)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Held at the desk.
- **Nov 28, 2018:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Nov 28, 2018:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Corker with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Nov 28, 2018:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 683.
- **Jul 19, 2018:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 19, 2018:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.