

## S 2757

### HELP for Small Businesses Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Commerce

**Introduced:** Oct 31, 2019

**Current Status:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 628.

**Latest Action:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 628. (Dec 15, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2757>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]

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

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Oct 31, 2019
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Oct 31, 2019
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Oct 31, 2019

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 15, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Commerce

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

### Summary (as of Dec 15, 2020)

#### Harmless Error Lesser Penalty for Small Businesses Act or the HELP for Small Businesses Act

This bill prohibits an agency from imposing a civil fine on a small business for a first-time paperwork violation, with the exceptions that the agency may levy a fine for a violation that (1) interferes with the detection of criminal activity; (2) contravenes an internal revenue law; or (3) endangers public health, safety, or the environment. However, an agency must track each first-time violation and report each waiver or reduction of a civil penalty for the violation.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Dec 15, 2020:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Johnson with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 116-326.
- **Dec 15, 2020:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 628.
- **Mar 11, 2020:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Oct 31, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Oct 31, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.