

## S 3971

### Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act

**Congress:** 119 (2025–2027, Current)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Commerce

**Introduced:** Mar 3, 2026

**Current Status:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held. (Jun 17, 2026)

**Law:** 119-83 (Enacted Apr 13, 2026)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/3971>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 3, 2026

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jun 17, 2026

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Commerce

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act**

This act reauthorizes through FY2031 and modifies the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and related pilot programs. (The SBIR and STTR programs are administered by various federal agencies and provide competitive awards for domestic small businesses to conduct research and development projects that have the potential for commercialization.)

Specifically, the act expands the requirements for federal agencies administering these programs to evaluate the security risks of the small businesses that apply for awards under the programs. If an agency denies an application for security reasons, the agency must provide the small business with the basis for such determination.

Further, each agency must set a maximum number of proposals per fiscal year that a small business concern may submit in response to Phase I and Phase II solicitations.

The act expands the training requirements for agencies' contracting officers and acquisition workforce with respect to Phase III (commercialization of technologies) awards under the SBIR and STTR programs.

The act also establishes strategic breakthrough allocations for critical technology areas. These are additional Phase II SBIR and STTR awards to small businesses that demonstrate an effective technology and receive matching funds.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 17, 2026:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held.
- **Apr 13, 2026:** Signed by President.
- **Apr 13, 2026:** Became Public Law No: 119-83.
- **Apr 2, 2026:** Presented to President.
- **Mar 17, 2026:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H2545-2546)
- **Mar 17, 2026:** 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): 345 - 41 (Roll no. 89).
- **Mar 17, 2026:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 345 - 41 (Roll no. 89).
- **Mar 17, 2026:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 16, 2026:** Ms. Van Duyne moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Mar 16, 2026:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H2491-2497; text: CR H2491-2495)
- **Mar 16, 2026:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 3971.
- **Mar 16, 2026:** 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.
- **Mar 4, 2026:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Mar 4, 2026:** Received in the House.
- **Mar 4, 2026:** Held at the desk.
- **Mar 3, 2026:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 3, 2026:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Introduced in the Senate, read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed without amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 3, 2026:** Introduced in the Senate, read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed without amendment by Voice Vote. (consideration: CR S752-756; text: CR S752-756)

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