

**15 USC 636: Additional powers**

Text contains those laws in effect on January 10, 2021

**From Title 15-COMMERCE AND TRADE**

CHAPTER 14A-AID TO SMALL BUSINESS

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**§636. Additional powers****(a) Loans to small business concerns; allowable purposes; qualified business; restrictions and limitations**

The Administration is empowered to the extent and in such amounts as provided in advance in appropriation Acts to make loans for plant acquisition, construction, conversion, or expansion, including the acquisition of land, material, supplies, equipment, and working capital, and to make loans to any qualified small business concern, including those owned by qualified Indian tribes, for purposes of this chapter. Such financings may be made either directly or in cooperation with banks or other financial institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred (guaranteed) basis. These powers shall be subject, however, to the following restrictions, limitations, and provisions:

**(1) IN GENERAL.-****(A) CREDIT ELSEWHERE.-**

(i) **IN GENERAL.-**The Administrator has the authority to direct, and conduct oversight for, the methods by which lenders determine whether a borrower is able to obtain credit elsewhere. No financial assistance shall be extended pursuant to this subsection if the applicant can obtain credit elsewhere. No immediate participation may be purchased unless it is shown that a deferred participation is not available; and no direct financing may be made unless it is shown that a participation is not available.

(ii) **LIQUIDITY.-**On and after October 1, 2015, the Administrator may not guarantee a loan under this subsection if the lender determines that the borrower is unable to obtain credit elsewhere solely because the liquidity of the lender depends upon the guaranteed portion of the loan being sold on the secondary market.

**(B) BACKGROUND CHECKS.-**Prior to the approval of any loan made pursuant to this subsection, or section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 [15 U.S.C. 697], the Administrator may verify the applicant's criminal background, or lack thereof, through the best available means, including, if possible, use of the National Crime Information Center computer system at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**(C) LENDING LIMITS OF LENDERS.-**On and after October 1, 2015, the Administrator may not guarantee a loan under this subsection if the sole purpose for requesting the guarantee is to allow the lender to exceed the legal lending limit of the lender.

**(2) LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN GUARANTEED LOANS.-**

**(A) IN GENERAL.-**Except as provided in subparagraphs (B), (D), (E), and (F), in an agreement to participate in a loan on a deferred basis under this subsection (including a loan made under the Preferred Lenders Program), such participation by the Administration shall be equal to-

(i) 75 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of disbursement of the loan, if such balance exceeds \$150,000; or

(ii) 85 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of disbursement of the loan, if such balance is less than or equal to \$150,000.

**(B) REDUCED PARTICIPATION UPON REQUEST.-**

(i) **IN GENERAL.-**The guarantee percentage specified by subparagraph (A) for any loan under this subsection may be reduced upon the request of the participating lender.

(ii) **PROHIBITION.-**The Administration shall not use the guarantee percentage requested by a participating lender under clause (i) as a criterion for establishing priorities in approving loan guarantee requests under this

subsection.

(C) INTEREST RATE UNDER PREFERRED LENDERS PROGRAM.-

(i) IN GENERAL.-The maximum interest rate for a loan guaranteed under the Preferred Lenders Program shall not exceed the maximum interest rate, as determined by the Administration, applicable to other loans guaranteed under this subsection.

(ii) EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LENDERS.-Any lender that is participating in the Delegated Authority Lender Program of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (or any successor to the Program) shall be eligible to participate in the Preferred Lenders Program.

(iii) PREFERRED LENDERS PROGRAM DEFINED.-For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "Preferred Lenders Program" means any program established by the Administrator, as authorized under the proviso in section 634(b)(7) of this title, under which a written agreement between the lender and the Administration delegates to the lender-

(I) complete authority to make and close loans with a guarantee from the Administration without obtaining the prior specific approval of the Administration; and

(II) complete authority to service and liquidate such loans without obtaining the prior specific approval of the Administration for routine servicing and liquidation activities, but shall not take any actions creating an actual or apparent conflict of interest.

(D) PARTICIPATION UNDER EXPORT WORKING CAPITAL PROGRAM.-In an agreement to participate in a loan on a deferred basis under the Export Working Capital Program established pursuant to paragraph (14)(A), such participation by the Administration shall be 90 percent.

(E) PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE LOAN.-In an agreement to participate in a loan on a deferred basis under paragraph (16), the participation by the Administration may not exceed 90 percent.

(F) PARTICIPATION IN THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM.-In an agreement to participate in a loan on a deferred basis under paragraph (36), the participation by the Administration shall be 100 percent.

(3) No loan shall be made under this subsection-

(A) if the total amount outstanding and committed (by participation or otherwise) to the borrower from the business loan and investment fund established by this chapter would exceed \$3,750,000 (or if the gross loan amount would exceed \$5,000,000), except as provided in subparagraph (B);

(B) if the total amount outstanding and committed (on a deferred basis) solely for the purposes provided in paragraph (16) to the borrower from the business loan and investment fund established by this chapter would exceed \$4,500,000 (or if the gross loan amount would exceed \$5,000,000), of which not more than \$4,000,000 may be used for working capital, supplies, or financings under paragraph (14) for export purposes; and

(C) if effected either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate basis if the amount would exceed \$350,000.

(4) INTEREST RATES AND PREPAYMENT CHARGES.-

(A) INTEREST RATES.-Notwithstanding the provisions of the constitution of any State or the laws of any State limiting the rate or amount of interest which may be charged, taken, received, or reserved, the maximum legal rate of interest on any financing made on a deferred basis pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed a rate prescribed by the Administration, and the rate of interest for the Administration's share of any direct or immediate participation loan shall not exceed the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity comparable to the average maturities of such loans and adjusted to the nearest one-eighth of 1 per centum, and an additional amount as determined by the Administration, but not to exceed 1 per centum per annum: *Provided*, That for those loans to assist any public or private organization for the handicapped or to assist any handicapped individual as provided in paragraph (10) of this subsection, the interest rate shall be 3 per centum per annum.

(B) PAYMENT OF ACCRUED INTEREST.-

(i) IN GENERAL.-Any bank or other lending institution making a claim for payment on the guaranteed portion of a loan made under this subsection shall be paid the accrued interest due on the loan from the earliest date of default to the date of payment of the claim at a rate not to exceed the rate of interest on the loan on the date of default, minus one percent.

(ii) LOANS SOLD ON SECONDARY MARKET.-If a loan described in clause (i) is sold on the secondary market, the amount of interest paid to a bank or other lending institution described in that clause from the earliest date of default to the date of payment of the claim shall be no more than the agreed upon rate, minus one percent.

(iii) APPLICABILITY.-Clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to loans made on or after October 1, 2000.

(C) PREPAYMENT CHARGES

(i) IN GENERAL.-A borrower who prepays any loan guaranteed under this subsection shall remit to the Administration a subsidy recoupment fee calculated in accordance with clause (ii) if-

(I) the loan is for a term of not less than 15 years;

(II) the prepayment is voluntary;