

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3537

AN ACT

To amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to
Business Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Entrepreneur-
3 ship Training Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**

5 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
6 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following new
7 subsection:

8 “(h) **BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**—

9 “(1) **COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.**—In this
10 subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means—

11 “(A) a member of the Armed Forces, in-
12 cluding the National Guard or Reserves;

13 “(B) an individual who is participating in
14 the Transition Assistance Program established
15 under section 1144 of title 10, United States
16 Code;

17 “(C) an individual who—

18 “(i) served on active duty in any
19 branch of the Armed Forces, including the
20 National Guard or Reserves; and

21 “(ii) was discharged or released from
22 such service under conditions other than
23 dishonorable; and

24 “(D) a spouse or dependent of an indi-
25 vidual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or
26 (C).

1 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Beginning on the first
2 October 1 after the enactment of this subsection and
3 for the subsequent 4 fiscal years, the Administrator
4 shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Boots
5 to Business Program’ to provide entrepreneurship
6 training to covered individuals.

7 “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Busi-
8 ness Program are to—

9 “(A) provide assistance and in-depth train-
10 ing to covered individuals interested in business
11 ownership; and

12 “(B) provide covered individuals with the
13 tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify
14 a business opportunity, draft a business plan,
15 identify sources of capital, connect with local
16 resources for small business concerns, and start
17 up a small business concern.

18 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Busi-
20 ness Program may include—

21 “(i) a presentation providing exposure
22 to the considerations involved in self-em-
23 ployment and ownership of a small busi-
24 ness concern;

1 “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-
2 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
3 ship, the language of business, and the
4 considerations involved in self-employment
5 and ownership of a small business concern;

6 “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-
7 tion component providing an introduction
8 to the foundations of self employment and
9 ownership of a small business concern; and

10 “(iv) in-depth training delivered
11 through online instruction, including an
12 online course that leads to the creation of
13 a business plan.

14 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
15 trator may—

16 “(i) collaborate with public and pri-
17 vate entities to develop course curricula for
18 the Boots to Business Program; and

19 “(ii) modify program components in
20 coordination with entities participating in a
21 Warriors in Transition program, as defined
22 in section 738(e) of the National Defense
23 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013
24 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

25 “(C) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
2 shall—

3 “(I) ensure that Veteran Busi-
4 ness Outreach Centers regularly par-
5 ticipate, on a nationwide basis, in the
6 Boots to Business Program; and

7 “(II) to the maximum extent
8 practicable, use a variety of other re-
9 source partners and entities in admin-
10 istering the Boots to Business Pro-
11 gram.

12 “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying
13 out clause (i), the Administrator may make
14 grants to Veteran Business Outreach Cen-
15 ters, other resource partners, or other enti-
16 ties to carry out components of the Boots
17 to Business Program.

18 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF
19 DEFENSE.—The Administrator shall make
20 available to the Secretary of Defense informa-
21 tion regarding the Boots to Business Program,
22 including all course materials and outreach ma-
23 terials related to the Boots to Business Pro-
24 gram, for inclusion on the website of the De-
25 partment of Defense relating to the Transition

1 Assistance Program, in the Transition Assist-
2 ance Program manual, and in other relevant
3 materials available for distribution from the
4 Secretary of Defense.

5 “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-
6 FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of
7 Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make
8 available for distribution and display at local fa-
9 cilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs
10 outreach materials regarding the Boots to Busi-
11 ness Program which shall, at a minimum—

12 “(i) describe the Boots to Business
13 Program and the services provided; and

14 “(ii) include eligibility requirements
15 for participating in the Boots to Business
16 Program.

17 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this subsection and
19 every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit
20 to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
21 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small
22 Business of the House of Representatives a report
23 on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to
24 Business Program, which may be included as part of

1 another report submitted to such Committees by the
2 Administrator, and which shall include—

3 “(A) information regarding grants award-
4 ed under paragraph (4)(C);

5 “(B) the total cost of the Boots to Busi-
6 ness Program;

7 “(C) the number of program participants
8 using each component of the Boots to Business
9 Program;

10 “(D) the completion rates for each compo-
11 nent of the Boots to Business Program;

12 “(E) to the extent possible—

13 “(i) the demographics of program par-
14 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
15 tionship to military, military occupational
16 specialty, and years of service of program
17 participants;

18 “(ii) the number of small business
19 concerns formed or expanded with assist-
20 ance under the Boots to Business Pro-
21 gram;

22 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
23 ness concerns receiving assistance under
24 the Boots to Business Program;

1 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
2 assistance under the Boots to Business
3 Program;

4 “(v) the number of referrals to other
5 resources and programs of the Administra-
6 tion;

7 “(vi) the number of program partici-
8 pants receiving financial assistance under
9 loan programs of the Administration;

10 “(vii) the type and dollar amount of
11 financial assistance received by program
12 participants under any loan program of the
13 Administration; and

14 “(viii) results of participant satisfac-
15 tion surveys, including a summary of any
16 comments received from program partici-
17 pants;

18 “(F) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
19 the Boots to Business Program in each region
20 of the Administration during the most recent
21 fiscal year;

22 “(G) an assessment of additional perform-
23 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-
24 ness Program, as identified by the Adminis-
25 trator;

1 “(H) any recommendations of the Admin-
2 istrator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-
3 ness Program, which may include expansion of
4 the types of individuals who are covered individ-
5 uals;

6 “(I) an explanation of how the Boots to
7 Business Program has been integrated with
8 other transition programs and related resources
9 of the Administration and other Federal agen-
10 cies; and

11 “(J) any additional information the Ad-
12 ministrator determines necessary.”.

Passed the House of Representatives November 13,
2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

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