

Union Calendar No. 188

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3537

[Report No. 116-236]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. SPANO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

OCTOBER 15, 2019

Additional sponsors: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr.
FITZPATRICK, Mr. BALDERSON, and Ms. UNDERWOOD

OCTOBER 15, 2019

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Entrepreneur-

5 ship Training Act of 2019”.

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

7 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
8 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following new
9 subsection:

10 “(h) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

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

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

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

19 “(C) an individual who—

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

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

1 “(D) a spouse or dependent of an indi-
2 vidual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or
3 (C).

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

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

12 “(A) provide assistance and in-depth train-
13 ing to covered individuals interested in business
14 ownership; and

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

21 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

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

24 “(i) a presentation providing exposure
25 to the considerations involved in self-em-

1 employment and ownership of a small busi-
2 ness concern;

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

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

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

16 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
17 trator may—

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

21 “(ii) modify program components in
22 coordination with entities participating in a
23 Warriors in Transition program, as defined
24 in section 738(e) of the National Defense

1 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013
2 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

3 “(C) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
5 shall—

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

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

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

21 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF
22 DEFENSE.—The Administrator shall make
23 available to the Secretary of Defense informa-
24 tion regarding the Boots to Business Program,
25 including all course materials and outreach ma-

1 materials related to the Boots to Business Pro-
2 gram, for inclusion on the website of the De-
3 partment of Defense relating to the Transition
4 Assistance Program, in the Transition Assist-
5 ance Program manual, and in other relevant
6 materials available for distribution from the
7 Secretary of Defense.

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

15 “(i) describe the Boots to Business
16 Program and the services provided; and

17 “(ii) include eligibility requirements
18 for participating in the Boots to Business
19 Program.

20 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
21 the date of the enactment of this subsection and
22 every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit
23 to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
24 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small
25 Business of the House of Representatives a report

1 on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to
2 Business Program, which may be included as part of
3 another report submitted to such Committees by the
4 Administrator, and which shall include—

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

7 “(B) the total cost of the Boots to Busi-
8 ness Program;

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

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

14 “(E) to the extent possible—

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

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

1 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
2 ness concerns receiving assistance under
3 the Boots to Business Program;

4 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
5 assistance under the Boots to Business
6 Program;

7 “(v) the number of referrals to other
8 resources and programs of the Administra-
9 tion;

10 “(vi) the number of program partici-
11 pants receiving financial assistance under
12 loan programs of the Administration;

13 “(vii) the type and dollar amount of
14 financial assistance received by program
15 participants under any loan program of the
16 Administration; and

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

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

1 “(G) an assessment of additional perform-
2 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-
3 ness Program, as identified by the Adminis-
4 trator;

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

10 “(I) an explanation of how the Boots to
11 Business Program has been integrated with
12 other transition programs and related resources
13 of the Administration and other Federal agen-
14 cies; and

15 “(J) any additional information the Ad-
16 ministrator determines necessary.”.

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