

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3564

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. ERNST) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship

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 2022”.

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:

9 “(h) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

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

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

5 “(B) an individual who is participating in
6 the Transition Assistance Program established
7 under section 1144 of title 10, United States
8 Code;

9 “(C) an individual who—

10 “(i) served on active duty in any
11 branch of the Armed Forces, including the
12 National Guard or Reserves; and

13 “(ii) was discharged or released from
14 such service under conditions other than
15 dishonorable; and

16 “(D) a spouse or dependent of an indi-
17 vidual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or
18 (C).

19 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Beginning on the first
20 October 1 after the date of enactment of this sub-
21 section and for the subsequent 4 fiscal years, the
22 Administrator shall carry out a program to be
23 known as the ‘Boots to Business Program’ to pro-
24 vide entrepreneurship training to covered individ-
25 uals.

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

3 “(A) provide assistance and in-depth train-
4 ing to covered individuals interested in business
5 ownership; and

6 “(B) provide covered individuals with the
7 tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify
8 a business opportunity, draft a business plan,
9 identify sources of capital, connect with local
10 resources for small business concerns, and start
11 up a small business concern.

12 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

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

15 “(i) a presentation providing exposure
16 to the considerations involved in self-em-
17 ployment and ownership of a small busi-
18 ness concern;

19 “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-
20 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
21 ship, the language of business, and the
22 considerations involved in self-employment
23 and ownership of a small business concern;

24 “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-
25 tion component providing an introduction

1 to the foundations of self-employment and
2 ownership of a small business concern; and

3 “(iv) in-depth training delivered
4 through online instruction, including an
5 online course that leads to the creation of
6 a business plan.

7 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
8 trator may—

9 “(i) collaborate with public and pri-
10 vate entities to develop course curricula for
11 the Boots to Business Program; and

12 “(ii) modify program components in
13 coordination with entities participating in a
14 Warriors in Transition program, as defined
15 in section 738(e) of the National Defense
16 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013
17 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

18 “(C) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
20 shall—

21 “(I) ensure that Veteran Busi-
22 ness Outreach Centers regularly par-
23 ticipate, on a nationwide basis, in the
24 Boots to Business Program; and

1 “(II) to the maximum extent
2 practicable, use a variety of other re-
3 source partners and entities in admin-
4 istering the Boots to Business Pro-
5 gram.

6 “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying
7 out clause (i), the Administrator may make
8 grants to Veteran Business Outreach Cen-
9 ters, other resource partners, or other enti-
10 ties to carry out components of the Boots
11 to Business Program.

12 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF
13 DEFENSE.—The Administrator shall make
14 available to the Secretary of Defense informa-
15 tion regarding the Boots to Business Program,
16 including all course materials and outreach ma-
17 terials related to the Boots to Business Pro-
18 gram, for inclusion on the website of the De-
19 partment of Defense relating to the Transition
20 Assistance Program, in the Transition Assist-
21 ance Program manual, and in other relevant
22 materials available for distribution from the
23 Secretary of Defense.

24 “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-
25 FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of

1 Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make
2 available for distribution and display at local fa-
3 cilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs
4 outreach materials regarding the Boots to Busi-
5 ness Program which shall, at a minimum—

6 “(i) describe the Boots to Business
7 Program and the services provided; and

8 “(ii) include eligibility requirements
9 for participating in the Boots to Business
10 Program.

11 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
12 the date of enactment of this subsection and every
13 year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to
14 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
15 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small
16 Business of the House of Representatives a report
17 on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to
18 Business Program, which may be included as part of
19 another report submitted to such committees by the
20 Administrator, and which shall include—

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

23 “(B) the total cost of the Boots to Busi-
24 ness Program;

1 “(C) the number of program participants
2 using each component of the Boots to Business
3 Program;

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

6 “(E) to the extent possible—

7 “(i) the demographics of program par-
8 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
9 tionship to military, military occupational
10 specialty, and years of service of program
11 participants;

12 “(ii) the number of small business
13 concerns formed or expanded with assist-
14 ance under the Boots to Business Pro-
15 gram;

16 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
17 ness concerns receiving assistance under
18 the Boots to Business Program;

19 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
20 assistance under the Boots to Business
21 Program;

22 “(v) the number of referrals to other
23 resources and programs of the Administra-
24 tion;

1 “(vi) the number of program partici-
2 pants receiving financial assistance under
3 loan programs of the Administration;

4 “(vii) the type and dollar amount of
5 financial assistance received by program
6 participants under any loan program of the
7 Administration; and

8 “(viii) results of participant satisfac-
9 tion surveys, including a summary of any
10 comments received from program partici-
11 pants;

12 “(F) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
13 the Boots to Business Program in each region
14 of the Administration during the most recent
15 fiscal year;

16 “(G) an assessment of additional perform-
17 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-
18 ness Program, as identified by the Adminis-
19 trator;

20 “(H) any recommendations of the Admin-
21 istrator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-
22 ness Program, which may include expansion of
23 the types of individuals who are covered individ-
24 uals;

1 “(I) an explanation of how the Boots to
2 Business Program has been integrated with
3 other transition programs and related resources
4 of the Administration and other Federal agen-
5 cies; and

6 “(J) any additional information the Ad-
7 ministrator determines necessary.”.

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