

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3898

To direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish Veterans Business Outreach Centers and Technical Mentoring Assistance Committees.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Mr. AKIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

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## A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish Veterans Business Outreach Centers and Technical Mentoring Assistance Committees.

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 “Entrepreneur Soldiers  
5       Empowerment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS AND**  
2 **TECHNICAL AND MENTORING ASSISTANCE**  
3 **COMMITTEES.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 32 of the Small Busi-  
5 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 657c) is amended by adding at the  
6 end the following new subsections:

7 “(c) VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator,  
9 acting through the Associate Administrator for Vet-  
10 erans Business Development, shall establish Vet-  
11 erans Business Outreach Centers to offer business  
12 planning assistance to veterans.

13 “(2) NUMBER AND LOCATION.—The Adminis-  
14 trator shall establish not less than one Veterans  
15 Business Outreach Center in each geographic region.

16 “(3) DUTIES.—The duties of each Veterans  
17 Business Outreach Center are as follows:

18 “(A) To provide business planning assist-  
19 ance to veterans.

20 “(B) To offer information about continuity  
21 planning for small businesses in the event of an  
22 owner or essential employee who is a member of  
23 the National Guard or Reserve Components of  
24 the Armed Forces being called to serve on ac-  
25 tive duty.

1       “(d) TECHNICAL AND MENTORING ASSISTANCE  
2 COMMITTEES.—

3               “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator,  
4 acting through the Associate Administrator for Vet-  
5 erans Business Development, shall establish a Tech-  
6 nical and Mentoring Assistance Committee in each  
7 District Office service location where no Veterans  
8 Business Outreach Center has been established.

9               “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—A Technical and  
10 Mentoring Assistance Committee established pursu-  
11 ant to paragraph (1) shall—

12                   “(A) identify and recruit local volunteers  
13 to serve as veterans business mentors to provide  
14 assistance and guidance to members of the Re-  
15 serve Component who own small businesses or  
16 are entrepreneurs and to the family members of  
17 such members and the caretakers of such mem-  
18 ber’s businesses while such members are serving  
19 on active duty;

20                   “(B) plan and initiate training and out-  
21 reach seminars and programs designed to sup-  
22 port small business ownership among members  
23 of the Reserve Component, their family mem-  
24 bers, veterans, and service-disabled veterans;

1           “(C) prepare a plan every five years and  
2 submit such plan to the Administrator for ap-  
3 proval; and

4           “(D) prepare and submit to the Adminis-  
5 trator an annual budget request based on the  
6 plan and the State veteran population.

7           “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

8           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Technical and  
9 Mentoring Assistance Committee shall be com-  
10 posed of members appointed by the Adminis-  
11 trator and shall include the following individ-  
12 uals:

13           “(i) The District Director of the Ad-  
14 ministration or the Regional Adminis-  
15 trator.

16           “(ii) The Director of Veterans Affairs  
17 for each State served by the Committee.

18           “(iii) The Director of the Small Busi-  
19 ness Development Center for each State  
20 served by the Committee.

21           “(B) VOLUNTEER MEMBERS.—The Admin-  
22 istrator shall consult with and encourage the  
23 voluntary participation as members of the Com-  
24 mittee of the following individuals:

1 “(i) The Director of Economic Devel-  
2 opment for each State served by the Com-  
3 mittee.

4 “(ii) The Director of the Employer  
5 Support of the Guard and Reserve for each  
6 State served by the Committee.

7 “(iii) The Adjutant General of the  
8 National Guard for each State served by  
9 the Committee.

10 “(iv) The Director of the Service  
11 Corps of Retired Executives for each State  
12 served by the Committee.

13 “(v) Small business owners who are  
14 veterans and members of the Reserve Com-  
15 ponent.

16 “(vi) Representatives of State and  
17 local small business associations.

18 “(vii) The State adjutants of Congres-  
19 sionally chartered veterans service organi-  
20 zations.

21 “(viii) Small business owners and  
22 mentors who are veterans and who have  
23 expertise in the following areas:

24 “(I) Lending.

25 “(II) Accounting.

1 “(III) Insurance.

2 “(IV) Taxation.

3 “(V) Legal service.

4 “(VI) Business planning.

5 “(VII) Marketing.

6 “(4) NO COMPENSATION.—Members of the  
7 Technical and Mentoring Assistance Committees  
8 shall serve without pay.”.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out subparagraphs  
11 (c) and (d) of section 32 of the Small Business Act (15  
12 U.S.C. 657c), as added by subsection (a)—

13 (1) \$200,000 for each Veterans Business Out-  
14 reach Center established pursuant to section 32(c)  
15 of such Act for fiscal year 2006 and each subse-  
16 quent fiscal year; and

17 (2) \$20,000 for each Technical and Mentoring  
18 Assistance Committee established pursuant to sec-  
19 tion 32(d) of such Act for fiscal year 2006 and each  
20 subsequent fiscal year.

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