

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2396

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2014

Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHANNES, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, 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 and Training Opportunities Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PRO-**
2 **GRAM; OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DE-**
3 **VELOPMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Small Business
5 Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended—

6 (1) by striking subsection (d);

7 (2) by striking subsection (f);

8 (3) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
9 section (f);

10 (4) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(d) **BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**—

13 “(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection the
14 term ‘covered individual’ means—

15 “(A) a member of the Armed Forces;

16 “(B) an individual who separated from the
17 Armed Forces during the 1-year period ending
18 on the date on which the individual receives as-
19 sistance under this subsection; and

20 “(C) a spouse or dependent of an indi-
21 vidual described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

22 “(2) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a
23 program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Pro-
24 gram’ to provide entrepreneurship training to cov-
25 ered individuals, which shall be carried out by the
26 Administrator.

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

3 “(A) provide exposure, introduction, and
4 in-depth training for covered individuals inter-
5 ested in business ownership; and

6 “(B) provide covered individuals with the
7 tools and knowledge necessary to identify a
8 business opportunity, draft a business plan,
9 connect with local small business resources, and
10 launch a small business concern.

11 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

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

14 “(i) a brief presentation providing ex-
15 posure to the considerations involved in
16 self employment and small business owner-
17 ship;

18 “(ii) an in-person classroom instruc-
19 tion component providing an introduction
20 to the foundations of self employment and
21 small business ownership; and

22 “(iii) in-depth training delivered
23 through online instruction, including an
24 online course that leads to the creation of
25 a business plan.

1 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
2 trator may—

3 “(i) collaborate with public and pri-
4 vate entities to develop a course curriculum
5 for the Boots to Business Program; and

6 “(ii) design the course curriculum to
7 allow participants to receive college credit
8 or a certificate through an educational in-
9 stitution upon completion of all compo-
10 nents of the Boots to Business Program.

11 “(C) AVAILABILITY TO DOD.—The Admin-
12 istrator shall make available electronically all
13 course materials created for the Boots to Busi-
14 ness Program to the Secretary of Defense for
15 inclusion in the Transition Assistance Program
16 manual.

17 “(e) VETERAN WOMEN IGNITING THE SPIRIT OF EN-
18 TREPRENEURSHIP.—

19 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term
20 ‘covered woman’ means an individual who—

21 “(A) is female; and

22 “(B) is—

23 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces;

24 “(ii) a veteran; or

1 “(iii) the spouse or dependent of a
2 member of the Armed Forces or a veteran.

3 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
4 shall establish a program, to be known as the Vet-
5 eran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship
6 Program, to provide specific training for covered
7 women interested in exploring careers as owners of
8 small business concerns.

9 “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Veteran Women
10 Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Program are
11 to—

12 “(A) help covered women by providing the
13 tools to become successful entrepreneurs; and

14 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,
15 focus, and drive of covered women into a pre-
16 mier education training program taught by ac-
17 complished entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship
18 educators from across the United States.

19 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Veteran Women
21 Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Pro-
22 gram may include—

23 “(i) an online, self-study course fo-
24 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
25 ship and the language of business;

1 “(ii) a conference where participants
 2 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs
 3 and entrepreneurship educators from
 4 across the United States; and

5 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-
 6 port and mentorship.

7 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
 8 trator may collaborate with public and private
 9 entities to develop a course curriculum for the
 10 Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepre-
 11 neurship Program.”; and

12 (5) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(g) ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP FOR VET-
 14 ERANS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
 16 tablish a program, to be known as the Entrepreneur-
 17 ship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Pro-
 18 gram, to provide specific training for service-disabled
 19 veterans interested in exploring careers as owners of
 20 small business concerns.

21 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Entrepreneur-
 22 ship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Pro-
 23 gram are to—

1 “(A) help service-disabled veterans by pro-
2 viding the tools to become successful entre-
3 preneurs; and

4 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,
5 focus, and drive of service-disabled veterans
6 into a premier education training program
7 taught by accomplished entrepreneurs and en-
8 trepreneurship educators from across the
9 United States.

10 “(3) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Entrepreneurship
12 Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Pro-
13 gram may include—

14 “(i) an online, self-study course fo-
15 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
16 ship and the language of business;

17 “(ii) a conference where participants
18 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs
19 and entrepreneurship educators from
20 across the United States; and

21 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-
22 port and mentorship.

23 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
24 trator may collaborate with public and private
25 entities to develop a course curriculum for the

1 Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with
2 Disabilities Program.

3 “(h) ONLINE COORDINATION.—

4 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
5 ‘veterans’ assistance provider’ means—

6 “(A) a veterans’ business outreach center
7 established under subsection (i);

8 “(B) an employee of the Administration
9 assigned to the Office of Veterans Business De-
10 velopment; or

11 “(C) a veterans business development offi-
12 cer designated under subsection (i)(11)(B).

13 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Associate Admin-
14 istrator shall establish an online mechanism to—

15 “(A) provide information that assists vet-
16 erans’ assistance providers in carrying out the
17 activities of the veterans’ assistance providers;
18 and

19 “(B) coordinate and leverage the work of
20 the veterans’ assistance providers, including by
21 allowing a veterans’ assistance provider to—

22 “(i) distribute best practices and
23 other materials;

24 “(ii) communicate with other vet-
25 erans’ assistance providers regarding the

1 activities of the veterans' assistance pro-
 2 vider on behalf of veterans; and

3 “(iii) pose questions to and request
 4 input from other veterans' assistance pro-
 5 viders.

6 “(i) VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PRO-
 7 GRAM.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

9 “(A) the term ‘active duty’ has the mean-
 10 ing given that term in section 101 of title 10,
 11 United States Code;

12 “(B) the term ‘Reservist’ means a member
 13 of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as
 14 described in section 10101 of title 10, United
 15 States Code;

16 “(C) the term ‘small business concern
 17 owned and controlled by veterans’—

18 “(i) has the same meaning as in sec-
 19 tion 3(q); and

20 “(ii) includes a small business con-
 21 cern—

22 “(I) not less than 51 percent of
 23 which is owned by one or more
 24 spouses of veterans or, in the case of
 25 any publicly owned business, not less

1 than 51 percent of the stock of which
2 is owned by one or more spouses of
3 veterans; and

4 “(II) the management and daily
5 business operations of which are con-
6 trolled by one or more spouses of vet-
7 erans;

8 “(D) the term ‘spouse’, relating to a mem-
9 ber of the Armed Forces on active duty, vet-
10 eran, service-disabled veteran, or Reservist, in-
11 cludes an individual who, on the date on which
12 the member of the Armed Forces on active
13 duty, veteran, service-disabled veteran, or Re-
14 servist died, is the spouse of the member of the
15 Armed Forces on active duty, veteran, service-
16 disabled veteran, or Reservist; and

17 “(E) the term ‘veterans’ business outreach
18 center program’ means the program established
19 under paragraph (2)(A).

20 “(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
22 acting through the Associate Administrator,
23 shall establish a veterans’ business outreach
24 center program, under which the Associate Ad-
25 ministrator may provide financial assistance to

1 educational institutions, veterans' nonprofit
2 community-based organizations, and Federal,
3 State, and local departments and agencies to
4 conduct a 5-year project for the benefit of small
5 business concerns owned and controlled by vet-
6 erans, which, upon application by the entity re-
7 ceiving financial assistance, may be renewed for
8 one or more additional 5-year periods.

9 “(B) FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

10 Financial assistance under this subsection may
11 be in the form of a grant, a contract, or a coop-
12 erative agreement.

13 “(3) VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH CEN-

14 TERS.—Each entity that receives financial assistance
15 under this subsection shall establish or operate a
16 veterans' business outreach center (which may in-
17 clude establishing or operating satellite offices in the
18 region described in paragraph (5) served by that en-
19 tity) that provides to veterans (including service-dis-
20 abled veterans), Reservists, and the spouses of mem-
21 bers of the Armed Forces on active duty, veterans
22 (including service-disabled veterans), and Reserv-
23 ists—

24 “(A) financial advice, including training
25 and counseling on applying for and securing

1 business credit and investment capital, pre-
2 paring and presenting financial statements, and
3 managing cash flow and other financial oper-
4 ations of a small business concern;

5 “(B) management advice, including train-
6 ing and counseling on the planning, organiza-
7 tion, staffing, direction, and control of each
8 major activity and function of a small business
9 concern;

10 “(C) marketing advice, including training
11 and counseling on identifying and segmenting
12 domestic and international market opportuni-
13 ties, preparing and executing marketing plans,
14 developing pricing strategies, locating contract
15 opportunities, negotiating contracts, and using
16 public relations and advertising techniques; and

17 “(D) advice, including training and coun-
18 seling.

19 “(4) APPLICATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring to
21 receive financial assistance under this sub-
22 section shall submit an application to the Asso-
23 ciate Administrator at such time and in such
24 manner as the Associate Administrator may re-
25 quire.

1 “(B) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Each application de-
 2 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include a 5-
 3 year plan on proposed fundraising and training
 4 activities relating to the veterans’ business out-
 5 reach center.

6 “(C) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICA-
 7 TION.—Not later than 90 days after the date
 8 on which applications for a fiscal year are re-
 9 quired to be submitted under subparagraph (A),
 10 the Associate Administrator shall approve or
 11 deny any application submitted and notify the
 12 applicant of the determination.

13 “(D) AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION.—
 14 The Associate Administrator shall make every
 15 effort to make the application under subpara-
 16 graph (A) available online.

17 “(5) ELIGIBILITY.—The Associate Adminis-
 18 trator may select to receive financial assistance
 19 under this subsection—

20 “(A) a Veterans Business Outreach Center
 21 established by the Administrator under section
 22 8(b)(17) on or before the day before the date
 23 of enactment of this subsection; or

24 “(B) educational institutions, veterans’
 25 nonprofit community-based organizations, and

1 Federal, State, and local departments and
2 agencies located in various regions of the
3 United States, as the Associate Administrator
4 determines is appropriate.

5 “(6) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Admin-
7 istrator shall establish selection criteria, stated
8 in terms of relative importance, to evaluate and
9 rank applicants under paragraph (5)(B) for fi-
10 nancial assistance under this subsection.

11 “(B) CRITERIA.—The selection criteria es-
12 tablished under this paragraph shall include—

13 “(i) the experience of the applicant in
14 conducting programs or ongoing efforts de-
15 signed to impart or upgrade the business
16 skills of veterans (including service-dis-
17 abled veterans), Reservists, and the
18 spouses of members of the Armed Forces
19 on active duty, veterans (including service-
20 disabled veterans), and Reservists who own
21 or may own small business concerns;

22 “(ii) for an applicant for initial finan-
23 cial assistance under this subsection—

24 “(I) the ability of the applicant
25 to begin operating a veterans’ busi-

1 ness outreach center within a min-
2 imum amount of time; and

3 “(II) the geographic region to be
4 served by the veterans’ business out-
5 reach center;

6 “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the
7 applicant to—

8 “(I) provide managerial coun-
9 seling and technical assistance to en-
10 trepreneurs; and

11 “(II) coordinate services provided
12 by veterans services organizations and
13 other public or private entities;

14 “(iv) the ability to leverage and co-
15 ordinate with existing resources and infra-
16 structure of the Administration; and

17 “(v) for any applicant for a renewal of
18 financial assistance under this subsection,
19 the results of the most recent examination
20 under paragraph (10) of the veterans’
21 business outreach center operated by the
22 applicant.

23 “(C) CRITERIA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—

24 The Associate Administrator shall—

1 “(i) make publicly available the selec-
 2 tion criteria established under this para-
 3 graph; and

4 “(ii) include the criteria in each solici-
 5 tation for applications for financial assist-
 6 ance under this subsection.

7 “(7) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of
 8 financial assistance provided under this subsection
 9 to an entity for each fiscal year shall be—

10 “(A) not less than \$100,000; and

11 “(B) not more than \$300,000.

12 “(8) FEDERAL SHARE.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

14 “(i) INITIAL FINANCIAL ASSIST-
 15 ANCE.—Except as provided in clause (ii)
 16 and subparagraph (E), an entity that re-
 17 ceives financial assistance under this sub-
 18 section shall provide non-Federal contribu-
 19 tions for the operation of the veterans’
 20 business outreach center established by the
 21 entity in an amount equal to—

22 “(I) in each of the first and sec-
 23 ond years of the project, not less than
 24 33 percent of the amount of the fi-

1 nancial assistance received under this
2 subsection; and

3 “(II) in each of the third through
4 fifth years of the project, not less
5 than 50 percent of the amount of the
6 financial assistance received under
7 this subsection.

8 “(ii) RENEWALS.—An entity that re-
9 ceives a renewal of financial assistance
10 under this subsection shall provide non-
11 Federal contributions for the operation of
12 the veterans’ business outreach center es-
13 tablished by the entity in an amount equal
14 to not less than 50 percent of the amount
15 of the financial assistance received under
16 this subsection.

17 “(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—
18 Not more than 50 percent of the non-Federal
19 share for a project carried out using financial
20 assistance under this subsection may be in the
21 form of in-kind contributions.

22 “(C) TIMING OF DISBURSEMENT.—The
23 Associate Administrator may disburse not more
24 than 25 percent of the financial assistance
25 awarded to an entity before the entity obtains

1 the non-Federal share required under this para-
2 graph with respect to that award.

3 “(D) FAILURE TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL
4 FUNDING.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an entity that
6 receives financial assistance under this
7 subsection fails to obtain the non-Federal
8 share required under this paragraph dur-
9 ing any fiscal year, the entity may not re-
10 ceive a disbursement under this subsection
11 in a subsequent fiscal year or a disburse-
12 ment for any other project funded by the
13 Administration, unless the Administrator
14 makes a written determination that the en-
15 tity will be able to obtain a non-Federal
16 contribution.

17 “(ii) RESTORATION.—An entity pro-
18 hibited from receiving a disbursement
19 under clause (i) in a fiscal year may re-
20 ceive financial assistance in a subsequent
21 fiscal year if the entity obtains the non-
22 Federal share required under this para-
23 graph for the subsequent fiscal year.

24 “(E) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by
2 an entity, and in accordance with this sub-
3 paragraph, the Administrator may waive,
4 in whole or in part, the requirement to ob-
5 tain non-Federal funds under subpara-
6 graph (A) for a fiscal year. The Adminis-
7 trator may not waive the requirement for
8 an entity to obtain non-Federal funds
9 under this subparagraph for more than a
10 total of 2 fiscal years.

11 “(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deter-
12 mining whether to waive the requirement
13 to obtain non-Federal funds under this
14 subparagraph, the Administrator shall con-
15 sider—

16 “(I) the economic conditions af-
17 fecting the entity;

18 “(II) the impact a waiver under
19 this subparagraph would have on the
20 credibility of the veterans’ business
21 outreach center program;

22 “(III) the demonstrated ability of
23 the entity to raise non-Federal funds;
24 and

1 “(IV) the performance of the en-
2 tity.

3 “(iii) LIMITATION.—The Adminis-
4 trator may not waive the requirement to
5 obtain non-Federal funds under this sub-
6 paragraph if granting the waiver would un-
7 dermine the credibility of the veterans’
8 business outreach center program.

9 “(9) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—A veterans’ busi-
10 ness outreach center may enter into a contract with
11 a Federal department or agency to provide specific
12 assistance to veterans, service-disabled veterans, Re-
13 servists, or the spouses of members of the Armed
14 Forces on active duty, veterans, service-disabled vet-
15 erans, or Reservists with prior written approval of
16 the Associate Administrator. Performance of such
17 contract shall not hinder the veterans’ business out-
18 reach center in carrying out the terms of the grant
19 received by the veterans’ business outreach center
20 from the Administrator.

21 “(10) EXAMINATION AND DETERMINATION OF
22 PERFORMANCE.—

23 “(A) EXAMINATION.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
25 180 days after the date of enactment of

1 this subsection and every year thereafter,
2 the Associate Administrator shall conduct
3 an annual examination of the programs
4 and finances of each veterans' business
5 outreach center established or operated
6 using financial assistance under this sub-
7 section.

8 “(ii) FACTORS.—In conducting the ex-
9 amination under clause (i), the Associate
10 Administrator shall consider whether the
11 veterans' business outreach center has
12 failed—

13 “(I) to provide the information
14 required to be provided under sub-
15 paragraph (B), or the information
16 provided by the center is inadequate;

17 “(II) to comply with a require-
18 ment for participation in the veterans'
19 business outreach center program, as
20 determined by the Associate Adminis-
21 trator, including—

22 “(aa) failure to acquire or
23 properly document a non-Federal
24 share;

1 “(bb) failure to establish an
2 appropriate partnership or pro-
3 gram for marketing and outreach
4 to small business concerns;

5 “(cc) failure to achieve re-
6 sults described in a financial as-
7 sistance agreement; and

8 “(dd) failure to provide to
9 the Administrator a description
10 of the amount and sources of any
11 non-Federal funding received by
12 the center;

13 “(III) to carry out the 5-year
14 plan under in paragraph (4)(B);

15 “(IV) to meet the eligibility re-
16 quirements under paragraph (5); or

17 “(V) to serve small business con-
18 cerns in the geographic region served
19 by the veterans’ business outreach
20 center.

21 “(B) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—In the
22 course of an examination under subparagraph
23 (A), the veterans’ business outreach center shall
24 provide to the Associate Administrator—

1 “(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-
 2 tual expenditures for costs incurred during
 3 the most recent full fiscal year, including
 4 the amount spent on administrative ex-
 5 penses;

6 “(ii) documentation of the amount of
 7 non-Federal contributions obtained and ex-
 8 pended by the veterans’ business outreach
 9 center during the most recent full fiscal
 10 year;

11 “(iii) with respect to any in-kind con-
 12 tribution under paragraph (8)(B),
 13 verification of the existence and valuation
 14 of such contribution; and

15 “(iv) any additional information the
 16 Associate Administrator determines nec-
 17 essary.

18 “(C) DETERMINATION OF PERFORM-
 19 ANCE.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-
 21 ministrator shall analyze the results of
 22 each examination under subparagraph (A)
 23 and, based on that analysis, make a deter-
 24 mination regarding the performance of the

1 programs and finances of each veterans'
2 business outreach center.

3 “(ii) NONDELEGATION OF DETER-
4 MINATION.—The duty under clause (i) to
5 make a determination regarding the per-
6 formance of the programs and finances of
7 a veterans’ business outreach center may
8 not be delegated.

9 “(D) DISCONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-
11 ministrator may discontinue an award of
12 financial assistance to an entity at any
13 time for poor performance as determined
14 under subparagraph (C).

15 “(ii) RESTORATION.—The Associate
16 Administrator may continue to provide fi-
17 nancial assistance to an entity in a subse-
18 quent fiscal year if the Associate Adminis-
19 trator determines under subparagraph (C)
20 that the veterans’ business outreach center
21 has taken appropriate measures to improve
22 its performance and it is viable.

23 “(11) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND CON-
24 SULTATION.—

1 “(A) COORDINATION AND CONSULTA-
2 TION.—To the extent practicable, the Associate
3 Administrator and each entity that receives fi-
4 nancial assistance under this subsection shall—

5 “(i) coordinate outreach and other ac-
6 tivities with other programs of the Admin-
7 istration and the programs of other Fed-
8 eral agencies;

9 “(ii) consult with technical representa-
10 tives of the district offices of the Adminis-
11 tration in carrying out activities using fi-
12 nancial assistance under this subsection;
13 and

14 “(iii) provide information to the vet-
15 erans business development officers des-
16 ignated under subparagraph (B) and co-
17 ordinate with the veterans business devel-
18 opment officers to increase the ability of
19 the veterans business development officers
20 to provide services throughout the area
21 served by the veterans business develop-
22 ment officers.

23 “(B) VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
24 OFFICERS.—

1 “(i) DESIGNATION.—The Adminis-
2 trator shall designate not fewer than one
3 individual in each district office of the Ad-
4 ministration as a veterans business devel-
5 opment officer, who shall communicate and
6 coordinate activities of the district office
7 with entities that receive financial assist-
8 ance under this subsection.

9 “(ii) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—The
10 first individual in each district office of the
11 Administration designated by the Adminis-
12 trator as a veterans business development
13 officer under clause (i) shall be an indi-
14 vidual that is employed by the Administra-
15 tion on the date of enactment of this sub-
16 section.

17 “(12) EXISTING CONTRACTS.—An award of fi-
18 nancial assistance under this subsection shall not
19 void any contract between any entity and the Ad-
20 ministration that is in effect on the date of such
21 award.

22 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated—

24 “(1) to carry out subsection (d), \$7,000,000 for
25 each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019;

1 “(2) to carry out subsection (e), \$500,000 for
2 each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019;

3 “(3) to carry out subsection (g), \$450,000 for
4 each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019; and

5 “(4) to carry out subsection (i)—

6 “(A) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

7 “(B) \$3,500,000 for fiscal year 2016;

8 “(C) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

9 “(D) \$4,500,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

10 “(E) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.

11 “(k) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the
12 date of enactment of this subsection and every year there-
13 after, the Associate Administrator shall submit to the
14 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
15 the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the
16 House of Representatives a report, which may be included
17 as part of another report submitted to the Committee on
18 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and
19 the Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives by the Associate Administrator, and which
21 shall include the following:

22 “(1) BOOTS TO BUSINESS.—For the Boots to
23 Business Program under subsection (d)—

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

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

6 “(C) the demographics of program partici-
7 pants, to include gender, age, race, relationship
8 to military, and years of service;

9 “(D) to the extent possible—

10 “(i) the number of small business con-
11 cerns formed or expanded with assistance
12 under the Boots to Business Program;

13 “(ii) the gross receipts of small busi-
14 ness concerns receiving assistance under
15 the Boots to Business program; and

16 “(iii) the number of jobs created with
17 assistance under the Boots to Business
18 program;

19 “(E) the number of referrals to other re-
20 sources and programs of the Administration;

21 “(F) the number of program participants
22 receiving financial assistance under loan pro-
23 grams of the Administration;

1 “(G) the type and dollar amount of finan-
2 cial assistance received by program participants
3 under loan programs of the Administration;

4 “(H) results of participant satisfaction
5 surveys, including a summary of any comments
6 received from program participants;

7 “(I) the range of percentage of disability
8 and the average percentage of disability, as
9 identified by the Department of Veterans Af-
10 fairs, of program participants;

11 “(J) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
12 the program in each region of the Administra-
13 tion during the most recent fiscal year;

14 “(K) an assessment of additional perform-
15 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-
16 ness Program, as identified by the Associate
17 Administrator;

18 “(L) any recommendations of the Adminis-
19 trator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-
20 ness Program, which may include expansion of
21 the types of individuals who are covered individ-
22 uals;

23 “(M) a discussion of how the Boots to
24 Business program has been integrated with

1 other resources and programs of the Adminis-
2 tration; and

3 “(N) any additional information the Ad-
4 ministrator determines necessary.

5 “(2) VETERAN WOMEN IGNITING THE SPIRIT
6 OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP.—For the Veteran Women
7 Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Program
8 under subsection (e)—

9 “(A) the number of program participants
10 using each component of the Veteran Women
11 Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Pro-
12 gram;

13 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
14 nent of the Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit
15 of Entrepreneurship Program;

16 “(C) the demographics of program partici-
17 pants, to include gender, age, race, relationship
18 to military, and years of service;

19 “(D) to the extent possible—

20 “(i) the number of small business con-
21 cerns formed or expanded with assistance
22 under the Veteran Women Igniting the
23 Spirit of Entrepreneurship Program;

24 “(ii) the gross receipts of small busi-
25 ness concerns receiving assistance under

1 the Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of
2 Entrepreneurship Program; and

3 “(iii) the number of jobs created with
4 assistance under the Veteran Women Ig-
5 niting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Pro-
6 gram;

7 “(E) the number of referrals to other re-
8 sources and programs of the Administration;

9 “(F) the number of program participants
10 receiving financial assistance under loan pro-
11 grams of the Administration;

12 “(G) the type and dollar amount of finan-
13 cial assistance received by program participants
14 under loan programs of the Administration;

15 “(H) the results of participant satisfaction
16 surveys, including a summary of any comments
17 received from program participants;

18 “(I) the range of percentage of disability
19 and the average percentage of disability, as
20 identified by the Department of Veterans Af-
21 fairs, of program participants;

22 “(J) an assessment of additional perform-
23 ance outcome measures for the Veteran Women
24 Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Pro-

1 gram, as identified by the Associate Adminis-
2 trator;

3 “(K) any recommendations of the Adminis-
4 trator for improvement of the Veteran Women
5 Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Pro-
6 gram;

7 “(L) a discussion of how the Veteran
8 Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship
9 Program has been integrated with other re-
10 sources and programs of the Administration;
11 and

12 “(M) any additional information the Ad-
13 ministrator determines necessary.

14 “(3) ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP FOR VET-
15 ERANS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM.—For the En-
16 trepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabil-
17 ities Program under subsection (g)—

18 “(A) the number of program participants
19 using each component of the Entrepreneurship
20 Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Pro-
21 gram;

22 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
23 nent of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for
24 Veterans with Disabilities Program;

1 “(C) the demographics of program partici-
2 pants, to include gender, age, race, relationship
3 to military, and years of service;

4 “(D) to the extent possible—

5 “(i) the number of small business con-
6 cerns formed or expanded with assistance
7 under the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for
8 Veterans with Disabilities Program;

9 “(ii) the gross receipts of small busi-
10 ness concerns receiving assistance under
11 the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Vet-
12 erans with Disabilities Program; and

13 “(iii) the number of jobs created with
14 assistance under the Entrepreneurship
15 Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities
16 Program;

17 “(E) the number of referrals to other re-
18 sources and programs of the Administration;

19 “(F) the number of program participants
20 receiving financial assistance under loan pro-
21 grams of the Administration;

22 “(G) the type and dollar amount of finan-
23 cial assistance received by program participants
24 under loan programs of the Administration;

1 “(H) the results of participant satisfaction
2 surveys, including a summary of any comments
3 received from program participants;

4 “(I) the range of percentage of disability
5 and the average percentage of disability, as
6 identified by the Department of Veterans Af-
7 fairs, of program participants;

8 “(J) an assessment of additional perform-
9 ance outcome measures for the Entrepreneur-
10 ship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities
11 Program, as identified by the Associate Admin-
12 istrator;

13 “(K) any recommendations of the Adminis-
14 trator for improvement of the Entrepreneurship
15 Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Pro-
16 gram;

17 “(L) a discussion of how the Entrepre-
18 neurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabil-
19 ities Program has been integrated with other
20 resources and programs of the Administration;
21 and

22 “(M) any additional information the Ad-
23 ministrator determines necessary.

1 “(4) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER
2 PROGRAM.—For the veterans’ business outreach cen-
3 ter program under subsection (i)—

4 “(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
5 the veterans’ business outreach center program
6 in each region of the Administration during the
7 most recent full fiscal year;

8 “(B) for each veterans’ business outreach
9 center established or operated using financial
10 assistance provided under subsection (i)—

11 “(i) the number of individuals receiv-
12 ing assistance from the veterans’ business
13 outreach center, including the number of
14 such individuals who are—

15 “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-
16 erans;

17 “(II) service-disabled veterans or
18 spouses of service-disabled veterans;

19 “(III) Reservists or spouses of
20 Reservists; or

21 “(IV) spouses of members of the
22 Armed Forces on active duty;

23 “(ii) the number of small business
24 concerns formed by individuals receiving

1 assistance from the veterans' business out-
2 reach center, including—

3 “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-
4 erans;

5 “(II) service-disabled veterans or
6 spouses of service-disabled veterans;

7 “(III) Reservists or spouses of
8 Reservists; or

9 “(IV) spouses of members of the
10 Armed Forces on active duty;

11 “(iii) to the extent possible—

12 “(I) the gross receipts of small
13 business concerns receiving assistance
14 from the veterans' business outreach
15 center;

16 “(II) the employment increases
17 or decreases of small business con-
18 cerns receiving assistance from the
19 veterans' business outreach center;
20 and

21 “(III) the increases or decreases
22 in profits of small business concerns
23 receiving assistance from the veterans'
24 business outreach center;

1 “(iv) the number of referrals by the
2 veterans’ business outreach center to other
3 resources and programs of the Administra-
4 tion;

5 “(v) the results of satisfaction sur-
6 veys, including a summary of any com-
7 ments received from small business con-
8 cerns receiving assistance from the vet-
9 erans’ business outreach center;

10 “(vi) the range of percentage of dis-
11 ability and the average percentage of dis-
12 ability, as identified by the Department of
13 Veterans Affairs, of individuals receiving
14 assistance from the veterans’ business out-
15 reach center;

16 “(vii) the number of small business
17 concerns receiving assistance from the vet-
18 erans’ business outreach center that re-
19 ceived financial assistance under loan pro-
20 grams of the Administration;

21 “(viii) the type and dollar amount of
22 financial assistance received under loan
23 programs of the Administration by small
24 business concerns receiving assistance from
25 the veterans’ business outreach center;

1 “(ix) an assessment of additional per-
2 formance outcome measures for the vet-
3 erans’ business outreach center, as identi-
4 fied by the Associate Administrator;

5 “(x) whether the Administrator
6 waived, in whole or in part, the require-
7 ment to obtain non-Federal funds under
8 subsection (i)(8) and, if so, the justifica-
9 tion for the waiver; and

10 “(xi) the results of the examination of
11 the veterans’ business outreach center
12 under subsection (i)(10);

13 “(C) any recommendations of the Adminis-
14 trator for improvement of the veterans’ busi-
15 ness outreach center program;

16 “(D) a discussion of how the veterans’
17 business outreach center program has been in-
18 tegrated with other resources and programs of
19 the Administration; and

20 “(E) any additional information the Ad-
21 ministrator determines necessary.

22 “(5) OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS AD-
23 MINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSI-
24 NESS DEVELOPMENT.—An evaluation of the effec-
25 tiveness of any other activities and programs admin-

1 istered by the Office of Veterans Business Develop-
 2 ment, including using the metrics identified in para-
 3 graphs (1) through (4).”.

4 (b) GAO REPORTS.—

5 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

6 (A) the term “covered individual” means—

7 (i) a veteran;

8 (ii) a service-disabled veteran;

9 (iii) a Reservist;

10 (iv) the spouse of an individual de-
 11 scribed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or

12 (v) the spouse of a member of the
 13 Armed Forces;

14 (B) the terms “Reservist” and “veterans’
 15 business outreach center program” have the
 16 meanings given those terms in section 32(h) of
 17 the Small Business Act, as added by this sec-
 18 tion; and

19 (C) the terms “service-disabled veteran”,
 20 “small business concern”, and “veteran” have
 21 the meanings given those terms under section 3
 22 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

23 (2) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
 25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 Comptroller General of the United States shall
2 submit a report regarding the ability of small
3 business concerns owned and controlled by cov-
4 ered individuals to access credit to—

5 (i) the Committee on Veterans' Af-
6 fairs and the Committee on Small Business
7 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

8 (ii) the Committee on Veterans' Af-
9 fairs and the Committee on Small Business
10 of the House of Representatives.

11 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
12 under subparagraph (A) shall include an anal-
13 ysis of—

14 (i) the sources of credit used by small
15 business concerns owned and controlled by
16 covered individuals and the percentage of
17 the credit obtained by small business con-
18 cerns owned and controlled by covered in-
19 dividuals that is obtained from each
20 source;

21 (ii) the default rate for small business
22 concerns owned and controlled by covered
23 individuals separately for each source of
24 credit described in clause (i), as compared

1 to the default rate for the source of credit
 2 for small business concerns generally;

3 (iii) the Federal lending programs
 4 available to provide credit to small busi-
 5 ness concerns owned and controlled by cov-
 6 ered individuals;

7 (iv) gaps, if any, in the availability of
 8 credit for small business concerns owned
 9 and controlled by covered individuals that
 10 are not being filled by the Federal Govern-
 11 ment or private sources;

12 (v) obstacles faced by covered individ-
 13 uals in trying to access credit;

14 (vi) the extent to which deployment
 15 and other military responsibilities affect
 16 the credit history of veterans and Reserv-
 17 ists; and

18 (vii) the extent to which covered indi-
 19 viduals are aware of Federal programs tar-
 20 geted towards helping covered individuals
 21 access credit.

22 (3) REPORT ON VETERANS' BUSINESS OUT-
 23 REACH CENTER PROGRAM.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
 25 after the end of the second fiscal year beginning

1 after the date on which the veterans' business
2 outreach center program is established, the
3 Comptroller General of the United States shall
4 evaluate the effectiveness of the veterans' busi-
5 ness outreach center program, and submit to
6 Congress a report on the results of that evalua-
7 tion.

8 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
9 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

10 (i) an assessment of—

11 (I) the use of amounts made
12 available to carry out the veterans'
13 business outreach center program;

14 (II) the effectiveness of the serv-
15 ices provided by each entity receiving
16 financial assistance under the vet-
17 erans' business outreach center pro-
18 gram;

19 (III) whether the services de-
20 scribed in subclause (II) are duplica-
21 tive of services provided by other vet-
22 eran service organizations, programs
23 of the Small Business Administration,
24 or programs of another Federal de-
25 partment or agency and, if so, rec-

1 ommendations regarding how to al-
 2 leviate the duplication of the services;
 3 and

4 (IV) whether there are areas of
 5 the United States in which there are
 6 not adequate entrepreneurial services
 7 for small business concerns owned and
 8 controlled by veterans and, if so,
 9 whether there is a veterans' business
 10 outreach center established under the
 11 veterans' business outreach center
 12 program providing services to that
 13 area; and

14 (ii) recommendations, if any, for im-
 15 proving the veterans' business outreach
 16 center program.

17 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY**
 18 **TASK FORCE.**

19 Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 20 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(4) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once
 22 each year, the Administrator shall submit to Con-
 23 gress a report—

24 “(A) discussing the appointments made to
 25 and activities of the task force; and

1 “(B) identifying and outlining a plan for
2 outreach and promotion of all the programs au-
3 thorized under the Veteran Entrepreneurship
4 and Training Opportunities Act of 2014, or an
5 amendment made by that Act.”.

○