

## Calendar No. 225

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION**S. 1866**

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2015

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Reported by Mr. VITTER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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**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 “Veterans Small Busi-  
5       ness Ownership Improvements Act of 2015”.

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 by striking subsections  
 6 (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

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

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

9 “(A) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

10 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces;  
 11 without regard to whether the member is  
 12 participating in the Transition Assistance  
 13 Program of the Department of Defense;

14 “(ii) an individual who is participating  
 15 in the Transition Assistance Program of  
 16 the Department of Defense;

17 “(iii) an individual who—

18 “(I) served on active duty in any  
 19 branch of the Armed Forces, includ-  
 20 ing the National Guard and Reserves;  
 21 and

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

1                   “(iv) a spouse or dependent of an in-  
 2                   dividual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii);  
 3                   and

4                   “(B) the term ‘Vet Center’ means a center  
 5                   for readjustment counseling and related mental  
 6                   health services for veterans under section  
 7                   1712A of title 38, United States Code.

8                   “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a  
 9                   program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Pro-  
 10                  gram’ to provide entrepreneurship training to cov-  
 11                  ered individuals, which shall be carried out by the  
 12                  Administrator.

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

15                         “(A) provide exposure, introduction, and  
 16                         in-depth training for covered individuals inter-  
 17                         ested in business ownership; and

18                         “(B) provide covered individuals with the  
 19                         tools and knowledge necessary to identify a  
 20                         business opportunity, draft a business plan,  
 21                         identify sources of capital, connect with local  
 22                         small business resources, and launch a small  
 23                         business concern.

24                   “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

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

3                   “(i) a brief presentation providing ex-  
4                   posure to the considerations involved in  
5                   self-employment and small business owner-  
6                   ship;

7                   “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-  
8                   cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-  
9                   ship, the language of business, and the  
10                  considerations involved in self-employment  
11                  and small business ownership;

12                  “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-  
13                  tion component providing an introduction  
14                  to the foundations of self-employment and  
15                  small business ownership; and

16                  “(iv) in-depth training delivered  
17                  through online instruction, including an  
18                  online course that leads to the creation of  
19                  a business plan.

20                  “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-  
21                  trator may—

22                  “(i) collaborate with public and pri-  
23                  vate entities to develop a course curriculum  
24                  for the Boots to Business Program; and

1           “(ii) modify program components in  
 2           coordination with entities participating in  
 3           the Warriors in Transition programs, as  
 4           defined in section 738(f) of the National  
 5           Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
 6           2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

7           “(C) UTILIZATION OF RESOURCE PART-  
 8           NERS.—

9           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-  
 10          ministrators shall—

11           “(I) ensure that veterans’ busi-  
 12          ness outreach centers regularly partici-  
 13          pate, on a nationwide basis, in the  
 14          Boots to Business Program; and

15           “(II) to the maximum extent  
 16          practicable, use a variety of other re-  
 17          source partners and entities in admin-  
 18          istering the Boots to Business Pro-  
 19          gram.

20           “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying  
 21          out clause (i), the Associate Administrator  
 22          may make grants to veterans’ business  
 23          outreach centers, other resource partners,  
 24          and other entities to carry out components  
 25          of the Boots to Business Program.

1           “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DOD.—The Admin-  
2           istrator shall—

3           “(i) make available electronically in-  
4           formation regarding the Boots to Business  
5           Program and all course materials created  
6           for the Boots to Business Program to the  
7           Secretary of Defense for inclusion on the  
8           website of the Department of Defense re-  
9           lating to the Transition Assistance Pro-  
10          gram and in the Transition Assistance  
11          Program manual and other publications  
12          and materials available for distribution  
13          from the Secretary of Defense; and

14          “(ii) fully participate in the inter-  
15          agency governance of the Transition As-  
16          sistance Program.

17          “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-  
18          FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of  
19          Veterans Affairs, the Associate Administrator  
20          shall make available outreach materials regard-  
21          ing the Boots to Business Program for distribu-  
22          tion and display at local facilities of the Depart-  
23          ment of Veterans Affairs (including medical  
24          centers, community-based outpatient clinics,  
25          Vet Centers, and other facilities determined ap-

1           propriate by the Associate Administrator and  
2           the Secretary), which shall, at a minimum—

3                   “(i) describe the Boots to Business  
4                   Program, including a description of serv-  
5                   ices provided; and

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

9           ~~“(5) REVIEW.~~—The Inspector General of the  
10          Administration shall submit to the Committee on  
11          Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate  
12          and the Committee on Small Business of the House  
13          of Representatives an annual report regarding the  
14          awarding of grants under the Boots to Business  
15          Program.

16          ~~“(c) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING PRO-~~  
17          ~~GRAM.~~—

18               ~~“(1) DEFINITION.~~—In this subsection, the term  
19          ‘covered individual’ means an individual who—

20                   ~~“(A) is female; and~~

21                   ~~“(B) is—~~

22                           ~~“(i) a member of the Armed Forces;~~

23                           ~~“(ii) a veteran; or~~

24                           ~~“(iii) the spouse or dependent of a~~  
25                   member of the Armed Forces or a veteran.

1           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator  
 2           shall establish a program, to be known as the  
 3           Women Veterans Business Training Program, to  
 4           provide specific training for covered individuals in-  
 5           terested in exploring careers as owners of small busi-  
 6           ness concerns.

7           “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Women Vet-  
 8           erans Business Training Program are to—

9                   “(A) help covered individuals by providing  
 10                  the tools to become successful entrepreneurs;  
 11                  and

12                  “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,  
 13                  focus, and drive of covered individuals into a  
 14                  premier education training program taught by  
 15                  accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneur-  
 16                  ship educators from across the United States.

17           “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

18                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Women Veterans  
 19                  Business Training Program may include—

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

23                           “(ii) a conference where participants  
 24                           are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs

1 and entrepreneurship educators from  
 2 across the United States; and

3 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-  
 4 port and mentorship.

5 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-  
 6 trator may collaborate with public and private  
 7 entities to develop a course curriculum for the  
 8 Women Veterans Business Training Program.

9 “(5) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING.—  
 10 The Associate Administrator shall—

11 “(A) compile information on resources  
 12 available to women veterans for business train-  
 13 ing, including resources for—

14 “(i) vocational and technical edu-  
 15 cation;

16 “(ii) general business skills, such as  
 17 marketing and accounting; and

18 “(iii) business assistance programs  
 19 targeted to women veterans;

20 “(B) disseminate the information compiled  
 21 under subparagraph (A) through veterans’ busi-  
 22 ness outreach centers and women’s business  
 23 centers; and

24 “(C) in consultation with the Secretary of  
 25 Veterans Affairs, make available outreach mate-

1           rials regarding the Women Veterans Business  
 2           Training Program for distribution and display  
 3           at local facilities of the Department of Veterans  
 4           Affairs (including medical centers, community-  
 5           based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as de-  
 6           fined in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities  
 7           determined appropriate by the Associate Ad-  
 8           ministrators and the Secretary), which shall, at  
 9           a minimum—

10                   “(i) describe the Women Veterans  
 11                   Business Training Program, including a  
 12                   description of services provided; and

13                   “(ii) include eligibility requirements  
 14                   for participating in the Women Veterans  
 15                   Business Training Program.

16           “(6) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Ad-  
 17           ministrators may make grants to veterans’ business  
 18           outreach centers, women’s business centers, and  
 19           other entities, including other resource partners, to  
 20           carry out components of the Women Veterans Busi-  
 21           ness Training Program.

22           “(f) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE  
 23           DISABLED VETERANS.—

24                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-  
 25           tablish a Business Training Program for Service

1 Disabled Veterans to provide specific training for  
2 service-disabled veterans interested in exploring ca-  
3 reers as owners of small business concerns.

4 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Business Train-  
5 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans are to—

6 “(A) help service-disabled veterans by pro-  
7 viding the tools to become successful entre-  
8 preneurs; and

9 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,  
10 focus, and drive of service-disabled veterans  
11 into a premier education training program  
12 taught by accomplished entrepreneurs and en-  
13 trepreneurship educators from across the  
14 United States.

15 “(3) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Business Train-  
17 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans may  
18 include—

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

22 “(ii) a conference where participants  
23 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs  
24 and entrepreneurship educators from  
25 across the United States; and

1                   “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-  
2                   port and mentorship.

3                   “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-  
4                   trator may collaborate with public and private  
5                   entities to develop a course curriculum for the  
6                   Business Training Program for Service Dis-  
7                   abled Veterans.

8                   “(4) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In  
9                   consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
10                  the Associate Administrator shall make available  
11                  outreach materials regarding the Business Training  
12                  Program for Service Disabled Veterans for distribu-  
13                  tion and display at local facilities of the Department  
14                  of Veterans Affairs (including medical centers, com-  
15                  munity-based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as de-  
16                  fined in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities deter-  
17                  mined appropriate by the Associate Administrator  
18                  and the Secretary); which shall, at a minimum—

19                  “(A) describe the Business Training Pro-  
20                  gram for Service Disabled Veterans, including a  
21                  description of services provided; and

22                  “(B) include eligibility requirements for  
23                  participating in the Business Training Program  
24                  for Service Disabled Veterans.

1           ~~“(5) GRANT AUTHORITY.—~~The Associate Ad-  
 2           ministrator may make grants to veterans’ business  
 3           outreach centers and other entities, including other  
 4           resource partners, to carry out components of the  
 5           Business Training Program for Service Disabled  
 6           Veterans.

7           ~~“(g) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER~~  
 8           PROGRAM.—

9           ~~“(1) DEFINITIONS.—~~In this subsection—

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

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

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

19                           ~~“(i) has the meaning given that term~~  
 20                           in section 3(q); and

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

23                                   ~~“(I) not less than 51 percent of~~  
 24                                   which is owned by 1 or more spouses  
 25                                   of veterans or, in the case of any pub-

1                   licely owned business; not less than 51  
 2                   percent of the stock of which is owned  
 3                   by 1 or more spouses of veterans; and  
 4                   “(H) the management and daily  
 5                   business operations of which are con-  
 6                   trolled by 1 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 1 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) technical assistance, training, and  
11 counseling to assist in identifying and obtaining  
12 Federal procurement opportunities;

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

20 “(E) other advice, including training and  
21 counseling.

22 “(4) APPLICATION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring to  
24 receive financial assistance under this sub-  
25 section shall submit an application to the Asso-

1        ciate Administrator at such time and in such  
 2        manner as the Associate Administrator may re-  
 3        quire.

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

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

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

20           “(5) ELIGIBILITY.—The Associate Adminis-  
 21        trator may select to receive financial assistance  
 22        under this subsection—

23           “(A) a Veterans’ Business Outreach Cen-  
 24        ter established by the Administrator under sec-

tion 8(b)(17) on or before the day before the date of enactment of this subsection; or

~~“(B) educational institutions; veterans’ nonprofit community-based organizations; and Federal, State, and local departments and agencies located in various regions of the United States, as the Associate Administrator determines is appropriate.~~

~~“(6) SELECTION CRITERIA.—~~

~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall establish selection criteria, stated in terms of relative importance, to evaluate and rank applicants under paragraph (5)(B) for financial assistance under this subsection.~~

~~“(B) CRITERIA.—The selection criteria established under this paragraph shall include—~~

~~“(i) the experience of the applicant in conducting programs or ongoing efforts designed to impart or upgrade the business skills of veterans (including service-disabled veterans); Reservists; and the spouses of members of the Armed Forces on active duty, veterans (including service-disabled veterans); and Reservists who own or may own small business concerns;~~

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

3                   “(I) the ability of the applicant  
4                   to begin operating a veterans’ busi-  
5                   ness outreach center within a min-  
6                   imum amount of time; and

7                   “(II) the geographic region to be  
8                   served by the veterans’ business out-  
9                   reach center;

10           “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the  
11           applicant to—

12                   “(I) provide managerial coun-  
13                   seling and technical assistance to en-  
14                   trepreneurs; and

15                   “(II) coordinate services provided  
16                   by veterans service organizations and  
17                   other public or private entities;

18           “(iv) the demonstrated ability to le-  
19           verage and coordinate with existing re-  
20           sources and infrastructure of the Adminis-  
21           tration; and

22           “(v) for any applicant for a renewal of  
23           financial assistance under this subsection,  
24           the results of the most recent examination  
25           under paragraph (11) of the veterans’

1 business outreach center operated by the  
2 applicant.

3 ~~“(C) CRITERIA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—~~

4 The Associate Administrator shall—

5 ~~“(i) make publicly available the selec-~~  
6 ~~tion criteria established under this para-~~  
7 ~~graph;~~

8 ~~“(ii) include the criteria in each solici-~~  
9 ~~tation for applications for financial assist-~~  
10 ~~ance under this subsection;~~

11 ~~“(iii) make every effort to ensure re-~~  
12 ~~gional accessibility and geographic rep-~~  
13 ~~resentation in awarding financial assist-~~  
14 ~~ance under this subsection; and~~

15 ~~“(iv) to the extent practicable, make~~  
16 ~~publicly available the approximate antici-~~  
17 ~~pated date for the determination of award~~  
18 ~~recipients by the Administration and the~~  
19 ~~anticipated timing of disbursement.~~

20 ~~“(7) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of~~  
21 ~~financial assistance provided under this subsection~~  
22 ~~to an entity for each fiscal year shall be not less~~  
23 ~~than \$100,000.~~

24 ~~“(8) FEDERAL SHARE.—~~

25 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—~~

1           “(i) INITIAL FINANCIAL ASSIST-  
 2           ANCE.—Except as provided in clause (ii)  
 3           and subparagraph (E), an entity that re-  
 4           ceives financial assistance under this sub-  
 5           section shall provide non-Federal contribu-  
 6           tions for the operation of the veterans’  
 7           business outreach center established by the  
 8           entity in an amount equal to—

9                   “(I) in each of the first and sec-  
 10                  ond years of the project, not less than  
 11                  33 percent of the amount of the fi-  
 12                  nancial assistance received under this  
 13                  subsection; and

14                  “(II) in each of the third through  
 15                  fifth years of the project, not less  
 16                  than 50 percent of the amount of the  
 17                  financial assistance received under  
 18                  this subsection.

19           “(ii) RENEWALS.—An entity that re-  
 20           ceives a renewal of financial assistance  
 21           under this subsection shall provide non-  
 22           Federal contributions for the operation of  
 23           the veterans’ business outreach center es-  
 24           tablished by the entity in an amount equal  
 25           to not less than 50 percent of the amount

1 of the financial assistance received under  
2 this subsection.

3 “(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

4 Not more than 50 percent of the non-Federal  
5 share for a project carried out using financial  
6 assistance under this subsection may be in the  
7 form of in-kind contributions.

8 “(C) TIMING OF DISBURSEMENT.—The  
9 Associate Administrator may disburse not more  
10 than 25 percent of the financial assistance  
11 awarded to an entity before the entity obtains  
12 the non-Federal share required under this para-  
13 graph with respect to that award.

14 “(D) FAILURE TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL  
15 FUNDING.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an entity that  
17 receives financial assistance under this  
18 subsection fails to obtain the non-Federal  
19 share required under this paragraph dur-  
20 ing 2 consecutive fiscal years, the entity  
21 may not receive a disbursement under this  
22 subsection in a subsequent fiscal year or a  
23 disbursement for any other project funded  
24 by the Administration, unless the Adminis-  
25 trator makes a written determination that

1 the entity will be able to obtain a non-Fed-  
 2 eral contribution.

3 “(ii) RESTORATION.—An entity pro-  
 4 hibited from receiving a disbursement  
 5 under clause (i) in a fiscal year may re-  
 6 ceive financial assistance in a subsequent  
 7 fiscal year if the entity obtains the non-  
 8 Federal share required under this para-  
 9 graph for the subsequent fiscal year.

10 “(E) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by  
 12 an entity, and in accordance with this sub-  
 13 paragraph, the Administrator may waive,  
 14 in whole or in part, the requirement to ob-  
 15 tain non-Federal funds under subpara-  
 16 graph (A) for a fiscal year. The Adminis-  
 17 trator may not waive the requirement for  
 18 an entity to obtain non-Federal funds  
 19 under this subparagraph for more than a  
 20 total of 2 fiscal years.

21 “(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deter-  
 22 mining whether to waive the requirement  
 23 to obtain non-Federal funds under this  
 24 subparagraph, the Administrator shall con-  
 25 sider—

1                   “(I) the economic conditions af-  
2                   fecting the entity;

3                   “(II) the impact a waiver under  
4                   this subparagraph would have on the  
5                   credibility of the veterans’ business  
6                   outreach center program;

7                   “(III) the demonstrated ability of  
8                   the entity to raise non-Federal funds;  
9                   and

10                  “(IV) the performance of the en-  
11                  tity.

12                  “(iii) LIMITATION.—The Adminis-  
13                  trator may not waive the requirement to  
14                  obtain non-Federal funds under this sub-  
15                  paragraph if granting the waiver would un-  
16                  dermine the credibility of the veterans’  
17                  business outreach center program.

18                  “(9) AFFILIATION WITH SMALL BUSINESS DE-  
19                  VELOPMENT CENTERS.—

20                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity receiving fi-  
21                  nancial assistance under this subsection shall  
22                  enter into an agreement to affiliate with a small  
23                  business development center for purposes of  
24                  carrying out the activities of the entity using  
25                  the financial assistance.

1           “(B) CONSISTENCY WITH AGREEMENT.—

2           The terms of an agreement to affiliate under  
3           subparagraph (A) shall be in accordance with  
4           the terms of any agreement between the appli-  
5           cable small business development center and the  
6           Administration.

7           “(10) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—A veterans’

8           business outreach center may enter into a contract  
9           with a Federal department or agency to provide spe-  
10          cific assistance to veterans, service-disabled veterans,  
11          Reservists, or the spouses of members of the Armed  
12          Forces on active duty, veterans, service-disabled vet-  
13          erans, or Reservists with prior written approval of  
14          the Associate Administrator. Performance of such  
15          contract shall not hinder the veterans’ business out-  
16          reach center in carrying out the terms of the grant  
17          received by the veterans’ business outreach center  
18          from the Administrator.

19          “(11) EXAMINATION AND DETERMINATION OF  
20          PERFORMANCE.—

21               “(A) EXAMINATION.—

22               “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than  
23               180 days after the date of enactment of  
24               this subsection and every year thereafter,  
25               the Associate Administrator shall conduct

1 an annual examination of the programs  
 2 and finances of each veterans' business  
 3 outreach center established or operated  
 4 using financial assistance under this sub-  
 5 section.

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

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

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

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

23 “(bb) failure to establish an  
 24 appropriate partnership or pro-

1                   gram for marketing and outreach  
2                   to small business concerns;

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

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

11                  ~~“(III) to carry out the 5-year~~  
12                  ~~plan under in paragraph (4)(B);~~

13                  ~~“(IV) to meet the eligibility re-~~  
14                  ~~quirements under paragraph (5); or~~

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

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

23                  ~~“(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-~~  
24                  ~~tual expenditures for costs incurred during~~  
25                  ~~the most recent full fiscal year, including~~

1 the amount spent on administrative ex-  
 2 penses;

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

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

12 “(iv) any additional information the  
 13 Associate Administrator determines nec-  
 14 essary.

15 “(C) DETERMINATION OF PERFORM-  
 16 ANCE.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-  
 18 ministrator shall analyze the results of  
 19 each examination under subparagraph (A)  
 20 and, based on that analysis, make a deter-  
 21 mination regarding the performance of the  
 22 programs and finances of each veterans’  
 23 business outreach center.

24 “(ii) NONDELEGATION OF DETER-  
 25 MINATION.—The duty under clause (i) to

1 make a determination regarding the per-  
 2 formance of the programs and finances of  
 3 a veterans' business outreach center may  
 4 not be delegated.

5 “(D) DISCONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—

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

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

19 “(12) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND CON-  
 20 SULTATION.—

21 “(A) COORDINATION AND CONSULTA-  
 22 TION.—To the extent practicable, the Associate  
 23 Administrator and each entity that receives fi-  
 24 nancial assistance under this subsection shall—

“(i) coordinate outreach and other activities with other programs of the Administration and the programs of other Federal agencies, including programs at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(ii) consult with technical representatives of the district offices of the Administration in carrying out activities using financial assistance under this subsection; and

“(iii) provide information to the veterans business development officers designated under subparagraph (B) and coordinate with the veterans business development officers to increase the ability of the veterans business development officers to provide services throughout the area served by the veterans business development officers.

“(B) VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS.—

“(i) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate not fewer than 1 individual in each district office of the Ad-

1           ministration as a veterans business devel-  
 2           opment officer, who shall communicate and  
 3           coordinate activities of the district office  
 4           with entities that receive financial assist-  
 5           ance under this subsection.

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

14          ~~“(13) EXISTING CONTRACTS.—~~An award of fi-  
 15          nancial assistance under this subsection shall not  
 16          void any contract or cooperative agreement between  
 17          any entity and the Administration or grant to any  
 18          entity from the Administration that is in effect on  
 19          the date of such award.

20          ~~“(h) ONLINE COORDINATION.—~~

21          ~~“(1) DEFINITION.—~~In this subsection, the term  
 22          ‘veterans’ assistance provider’ means—

23                 ~~“(A) a veterans’ business outreach center~~  
 24                 established under subsection (g);

1           ~~“(B) an employee of the Administration~~  
 2           ~~assigned to the Office of Veterans Business De-~~  
 3           ~~velopment; or~~

4           ~~“(C) a veterans business development offi-~~  
 5           ~~cer designated under subsection (g)(12)(B).~~

6           ~~“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Associate Admin-~~  
 7           ~~istrator shall establish an online mechanism to—~~

8           ~~“(A) provide information that assists vet-~~  
 9           ~~erans’ assistance providers in carrying out the~~  
 10           ~~activities of the veterans’ assistance providers;~~  
 11           ~~and~~

12           ~~“(B) coordinate and leverage the work of~~  
 13           ~~the veterans’ assistance providers, including by~~  
 14           ~~allowing a veterans’ assistance provider to—~~

15           ~~“(i) distribute best practices and~~  
 16           ~~other materials;~~

17           ~~“(ii) communicate with other vet-~~  
 18           ~~erans’ assistance providers regarding the~~  
 19           ~~activities of the veterans’ assistance pro-~~  
 20           ~~vider on behalf of veterans; and~~

21           ~~“(iii) pose questions to and request~~  
 22           ~~input from other veterans’ assistance pro-~~  
 23           ~~viders.~~

1       “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
 2 authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016  
 3 through 2020—

4           “(1) \$2,500,000 to carry out subsection (g);  
 5       and

6           “(2) \$8,000,000 to carry out subsections (d),  
 7       (e), and (f).

8       “(j) PROHIBITION ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL.—Finan-  
 9 cial assistance made available under this section may not  
 10 be used to subsidize travel outside of the United States  
 11 (as defined in section 202(a)(7) of the State Department  
 12 Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4302(a)(7))).

13       “(k) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the  
 14 date of enactment of this subsection and every year there-  
 15 after, the Associate Administrator shall submit to the  
 16 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of  
 17 the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the  
 18 House of Representatives a report on the performance and  
 19 effectiveness for the programs authorized under this sec-  
 20 tion, which may be included as part of another report sub-  
 21 mitted to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-  
 22 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Busi-  
 23 ness of the House of Representatives by the Associate Ad-  
 24 ministrator, and which shall include the following:

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

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

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

8           “(C) to the extent possible—

9           “(i) the demographics of program par-  
10   ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
11   tionship to military, Military Occupational  
12   Code, and years of service of program par-  
13   ticipants;

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

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

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

1                   “(v) the number of referrals to other  
2 resources and programs of the Administra-  
3 tion;

4                   “(vi) the number of program partici-  
5 pants receiving financial assistance under  
6 loan programs of the Administration;

7                   “(vii) the type and dollar amount of  
8 financial assistance received by program  
9 participants under loan programs of the  
10 Administration; and

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

15                   “(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
16 the program in each region of the Administra-  
17 tion during the most recent fiscal year;

18                   “(E) an assessment of additional perform-  
19 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-  
20 ness Program, as identified by the Associate  
21 Administrator;

22                   “(F) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
23 trator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-  
24 ness Program, which may include expansion of

1 the types of individuals who are covered individ-  
 2 uals;

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

8 “(H) any additional information the Ad-  
 9 ministrator determines necessary.

10 “(2) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING  
 11 PROGRAM.—For the Women Veterans Business  
 12 Training Program under subsection (c)—

13 “(A) the number of program participants  
 14 using each component of the Women Veterans  
 15 Business Training Program;

16 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-  
 17 nent of the Women Veterans Business Training  
 18 Program;

19 “(C) to the extent possible—

20 “(i) the demographics of program par-  
 21 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
 22 tionship to military, and years of service;

23 “(ii) the number of small business  
 24 concerns formed or expanded with assist-

1           ance under the Women Veterans Business  
2           Training Program;

3           “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
4           ness concerns receiving assistance under  
5           the Women Veterans Business Training  
6           Program;

7           “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
8           assistance under the Women Veterans  
9           Business Training Program;

10          “(v) the number of referrals to other  
11          resources and programs of the Administra-  
12          tion;

13          “(vi) the number of referrals from  
14          other resources and programs of the Ad-  
15          ministration and other Federal agencies;

16          “(vii) the number of program partici-  
17          pants receiving financial assistance under  
18          loan programs of the Administration;

19          “(viii) the type and dollar amount of  
20          financial assistance received by program  
21          participants under loan programs of the  
22          Administration; and

23          “(ix) the results of participant satis-  
24          faction surveys, including a summary of

1           any comments received from program par-  
2           ticipants;

3           ~~“(D) an assessment of additional perform-~~  
4           ~~ance outcome measures for the Women Vet-~~  
5           ~~erans Business Training Program, as identified~~  
6           ~~by the Associate Administrator;~~

7           ~~“(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-~~  
8           ~~trator for improvement of the Women Veterans~~  
9           ~~Business Training Program;~~

10          ~~“(F) an explanation of how the Women~~  
11          ~~Veterans Business Training Program has been~~  
12          ~~integrated with other transition programs and~~  
13          ~~related resources of the Administration and~~  
14          ~~other Federal agencies; and~~

15          ~~“(G) any additional information the Ad-~~  
16          ~~ministrator determines necessary.~~

17          ~~“(3) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERV-~~  
18          ~~ICE DISABLED VETERANS.—For the Business Train-~~  
19          ~~ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans under~~  
20          ~~subsection (f)—~~

21          ~~“(A) the number of program participants~~  
22          ~~using each component of the Business Training~~  
23          ~~Program for Service Disabled Veterans;~~

1           “(B) the completion rates for each compo-  
2           nent of the Business Training Program for  
3           Service Disabled Veterans;

4           “(C) to the extent possible—

5                 “(i) the demographics of program par-  
6                 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
7                 tionship to military, and years of service;

8                 “(ii) the number of small business  
9                 concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
10                ance under the Business Training Program  
11                for Service Disabled Veterans;

12               “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
13               ness concerns receiving assistance under  
14               the Business Training Program for Service  
15               Disabled Veterans;

16               “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
17               assistance under the Business Training  
18               Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

19               “(v) the number of referrals to other  
20               resources and programs of the Administra-  
21               tion;

22               “(vi) the number of referrals from  
23               other resources and programs of the Ad-  
24               ministration and other Federal agencies;

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

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

8           “(ix) the results of participant satis-  
9           faction surveys, including a summary of  
10          any comments received from program par-  
11          ticipants;

12          “(D) an assessment of additional perform-  
13          ance outcome measures for the Business Train-  
14          ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans, as  
15          identified by the Associate Administrator;

16          “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
17          trator for improvement of the Business Train-  
18          ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

19          “(F) an explanation of how the Business  
20          Training Program for Service Disabled Vet-  
21          erans has been integrated with other transition  
22          programs and related resources of the Adminis-  
23          tration and other Federal agencies; and

24          “(G) any additional information the Ad-  
25          ministrator determines necessary.

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

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 (g)—~~

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 average distance traveled by~~  
 24                   ~~veterans to access services at the veterans’~~  
 25                   ~~business outreach center;~~

1           “(iii) the number of small business  
 2           concerns formed by individuals receiving  
 3           assistance from the veterans’ business out-  
 4           reach center, including—

5                   “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-  
 6                   erans;

7                   “(II) service-disabled veterans or  
 8                   spouses of service-disabled veterans;

9                   “(III) Reservists or spouses of  
 10                  Reservists; or

11                  “(IV) spouses of members of the  
 12                  Armed Forces on active duty; and

13           “(iv) to the extent possible—

14                   “(I) the gross receipts of small  
 15                   business concerns receiving assistance  
 16                   from the veterans’ business outreach  
 17                   center;

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

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

1           “(IV) the number of referrals by  
2           the veterans’ business outreach center  
3           to other resources and programs of  
4           the Administration;

5           “(V) the results of satisfaction  
6           surveys, including a summary of any  
7           comments received from small busi-  
8           ness concerns receiving assistance  
9           from the veterans’ business outreach  
10          center;

11          “(VI) the number of small busi-  
12          ness concerns receiving assistance  
13          from the veterans’ business outreach  
14          center that received financial assist-  
15          ance under loan programs of the Ad-  
16          ministration;

17          “(VII) the type and dollar  
18          amount of financial assistance re-  
19          ceived under loan programs of the Ad-  
20          ministration by small business con-  
21          cerns receiving assistance from the  
22          veterans’ business outreach center;

23          “(VIII) the number of small  
24          business concerns receiving assistance  
25          from the veterans’ business outreach

1 center that obtained a Federal con-  
2 tract through a small business con-  
3 tracting program;

4 “(IX) the type and dollar amount  
5 of the Federal contracts awarded to  
6 small business concerns receiving as-  
7 sistance from the veterans’ business  
8 outreach center;

9 “(X) an assessment of additional  
10 performance outcome measures for  
11 the veterans’ business outreach cen-  
12 ter, as identified by the Associate Ad-  
13 ministrator; and

14 “(XI) the results of the examina-  
15 tion of the veterans’ business outreach  
16 center under subsection (g)(10);

17 “(C) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
18 trator for improvement of the veterans’ busi-  
19 ness outreach center program;

20 “(D) an explanation of how the veterans’  
21 business outreach center program has been in-  
22 tegrated with other transition programs and re-  
23 lated resources of the Administration and other  
24 Federal agencies; and

1           “(E) any additional information the Ad-  
 2           ministrators determine necessary.”

3           ~~“(5) OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS AD-~~  
 4           ~~MINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSI-~~  
 5           ~~NESS DEVELOPMENT.—An evaluation of the effec-~~  
 6           ~~tiveness of any other activities and programs admin-~~  
 7           ~~istered by the Office of Veterans Business Develop-~~  
 8           ~~ment, including using the metrics identified in para-~~  
 9           ~~graphs (1) through (4).”.~~

10          ~~(b) FEDERAL SHARE FOR EXISTING PROGRAM.—~~

11           ~~(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term~~  
 12           ~~“existing award” means an award made under the~~  
 13           ~~Veterans’ Business Outreach Center Program of the~~  
 14           ~~Small Business Administration before the date of~~  
 15           ~~enactment of this Act that is in effect on the date~~  
 16           ~~of enactment of this Act.~~

17           ~~(2) EXCEPTION FROM PROVISION ON FAILURE~~  
 18           ~~TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL FUNDING.—During the 2-~~  
 19           ~~year period beginning on the date of enactment of~~  
 20           ~~this Act, subsection (g)(8)(D) of section 32 of the~~  
 21           ~~Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b), as added by~~  
 22           ~~subsection (a), shall not apply to an existing award.~~

23          ~~(c) GAO REPORTS.—~~

24           ~~(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—~~

25           ~~(A) the term “covered individual” means—~~

- 1 (i) a veteran;
- 2 (ii) a service-disabled veteran;
- 3 (iii) a Reservist;
- 4 (iv) the spouse of an individual de-
- 5 scribed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or
- 6 (v) the spouse of a member of the
- 7 Armed Forces;

8 (B) the terms “Reservist”, “small business  
 9 concern owned and controlled by veterans”, and  
 10 “veterans’ business outreach center program”  
 11 have the meanings given those terms in section  
 12 32(g) of the Small Business Act, as added by  
 13 subsection (a); and

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

18 ~~(2) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—~~

19 ~~(A) IN GENERAL.—~~Not later than 1 year  
 20 after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
 21 Comptroller General of the United States shall  
 22 submit a report regarding the ability of small  
 23 business concerns owned and controlled by cov-  
 24 ered individuals to access credit to—

1 (i) the Committee on Veterans' Af-  
2 fairs and the Committee on Small Business  
3 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

4 (ii) the Committee on Veterans' Af-  
5 fairs and the Committee on Small Business  
6 of the House of Representatives.

7 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted  
8 under subparagraph (A) shall include an anal-  
9 ysis of—

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

17 (ii) the default rate for small business  
18 concerns owned and controlled by covered  
19 individuals separately for each source of  
20 credit described in clause (i), as compared  
21 to the default rate for the source of credit  
22 for small business concerns generally;

23 (iii) the Federal lending programs  
24 available to provide credit to small busi-

ness concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals;

(iv) gaps, if any, in the availability of credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals that are not being filled by the Federal Government or private sources;

(v) obstacles faced by covered individuals in trying to access credit;

(vi) the extent to which deployment and other military responsibilities affect the credit history of veterans and Reservists; and

(vii) the extent to which covered individuals are aware of Federal programs targeted towards helping covered individuals access credit.

~~(3)~~ REPORT ON VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the second fiscal year beginning after the date on which the veterans' business outreach center program is established, the Comptroller General of the United States shall evaluate the effectiveness of the veterans' busi-

1           ness outreach center program, and submit to  
2           Congress a report on the results of that evalua-  
3           tion.

4           (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted  
5           under subparagraph (A) shall include—

6                   (i) an assessment of—

7                           (I) the use of amounts made  
8                           available to carry out the veterans'  
9                           business outreach center program;

10                          (II) the effectiveness of the serv-  
11                          ices provided by each entity receiving  
12                          financial assistance under the vet-  
13                          erans' business outreach center pro-  
14                          gram;

15                          (III) whether the services de-  
16                          scribed in subclause (II) are duplica-  
17                          tive of services provided by other vet-  
18                          erans service organizations, programs  
19                          of the Small Business Administration,  
20                          or programs of another Federal de-  
21                          partment or agency and, if so, rec-  
22                          ommendations regarding how to al-  
23                          leviate the duplication of the services;

24                          (IV) whether there are areas of  
25                          the United States in which there are

not adequate entrepreneurial services for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and, if so, whether there is a veterans' business outreach center established under the veterans' business outreach center program providing services to that area; and

(V) whether there is a correlation between the proximity of a veterans' business outreach center to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and the rate of the use of the services of the veterans' business outreach center; and

(ii) recommendations, if any, for improving the veterans' business outreach center program.

**SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND  
ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

1           (2) the term “individual eligible for a veteran  
2       entrepreneurial development program” means—

3           (A) a covered individual, as defined in sec-  
4       tion 32(d)(1) of the Small Business Act, as  
5       amended by section 2;

6           (B) a covered individual, as defined in sec-  
7       tion 32(e)(1) of the Small Business Act, as  
8       amended by section 2;

9           (C) a service-disabled veteran, as defined  
10      in section 3(q)(1) of the Small Business Act  
11      (15 U.S.C. 632(q)(1)); and

12          (D) an individual who qualifies to be the  
13      owner of a small business concern owned and  
14      controlled by veterans, as defined in section  
15      32(g)(1)(C) of the Small Business Act, as  
16      amended by section 2;

17          (3) the term “one-stop resource” means the  
18      one-stop online resource established under sub-  
19      section (c)(1); and

20          (4) the term “small business concern” has the  
21      meaning given that term under section 3 of the  
22      Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

23      (b) VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS.—Not later  
24      than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
25      Administrator shall establish guidelines to improve the

1 network of peer-to-peer counseling and mentoring for indi-  
 2 viduals eligible for a veteran entrepreneurial development  
 3 program relating to the business development and entre-  
 4 preneurial programs of the Administration.

5 ~~(c) ONE-STOP ONLINE RESOURCE.—~~

6 ~~(1) IN GENERAL.—~~The Administrator shall es-  
 7 tablish an online mechanism that serves as a one-  
 8 stop online resource for veterans regarding all of the  
 9 entrepreneurial development programs of the Admin-  
 10 istration.

11 ~~(2) CONTENTS.—~~The one-stop resource shall  
 12 include descriptions of each entrepreneurial program  
 13 of the Administration (which shall include the pro-  
 14 grams described in paragraph (3)), including—

15 ~~(A) target client descriptions for each pro-~~  
 16 ~~gram;~~

17 ~~(B) contact information for information on~~  
 18 ~~or assistance regarding each program from lo-~~  
 19 ~~cally, State-wide, and nationally available~~  
 20 ~~sources;~~

21 ~~(C) a detailed description of the services~~  
 22 ~~available under each program;~~

23 ~~(D) a description of any costs associated~~  
 24 ~~with the services under each program;~~

1           ~~(E)~~ an outline of program curriculums if  
 2           training seminars or courses are offered; and

3           ~~(F)~~ other resource information that the  
 4           Administrator determines appropriate and nec-  
 5           essary for veteran entrepreneurs and veterans  
 6           who own small business concerns; in order to  
 7           ensure the one-stop online resource provides in-  
 8           formation and resources necessary for a veteran  
 9           beginning to develop a small business concern.

10          ~~(3)~~ PROGRAMS.—The programs identified and  
 11         described under the one-stop resource shall in-  
 12         clude—

13                 ~~(A)~~ the small business development center  
 14                 program under section 21 of the Small Busi-  
 15                 ness Act ~~(15 U.S.C. 648)~~;

16                 ~~(B)~~ the women’s business center program  
 17                 under section 29 of the Small Business Act ~~(15~~  
 18                 ~~U.S.C. 656)~~;

19                 ~~(C)~~ the programs of the Office of Entre-  
 20                 preneurship Education of the Administration;

21                 ~~(D)~~ the Boots to Business Program under  
 22                 section ~~32(d)~~ of the Small Business Act, as  
 23                 amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

24                 ~~(E)~~ the veterans’ business outreach center  
 25                 program under section ~~32(e)~~ of the Small Busi-

ness Act, as amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

(F) the Service Corps of Retired Executives program authorized by section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)); and

(G) any other program of the Administration determined appropriate by the Administrator.

**SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

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

“(4) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report—

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

“(B) identifying and outlining a plan for outreach and promotion of all the programs authorized under the Veterans Small Business Development Act of 2015, or an amendment made by that Act.”.

1 **SEC. 5. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING.**

2 Section 8(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
3 637(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” at the  
5 end;

6 (2) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at  
7 the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(18) to make a grant to, or enter into a coop-  
10 erative agreement with, a nonprofit entity to operate  
11 an educational training program to provide assist-  
12 ance to small business concerns owned and con-  
13 trolled by veterans regarding how to increase the  
14 likelihood of being awarded contracts with the Fed-  
15 eral Government—

16 “(A) which shall be made to or entered  
17 into with a nonprofit entity that has a track  
18 record of successfully providing educational and  
19 job training services to targeted veterans popu-  
20 lations in diverse locations;

21 “(B) under which the nonprofit entity shall  
22 be required to match any Federal funds re-  
23 ceived for the program with State, local, or pri-  
24 vate sector funds; and

25 “(C) under which the nonprofit entity shall  
26 use a diverse group of professional service ex-

perts, such as Federal, State, and local contracting experts and private sector industry experts with first-hand experience in Federal Government contracting, to provide instruction to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans.”.

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Small Business Ownership Improvements Act of 2015”.*

**SEC. 2. VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PROGRAM; OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.**

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by striking subsections (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:*

*“(d) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—*

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

*“(A) the term ‘covered individual’ means—*

*“(i) a member of the Armed Forces, without regard to whether the member is participating in the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense;*

*“(ii) an individual who is participating in the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense;*

1 “(iii) an individual who—

2 “(I) served on active duty in any  
3 branch of the Armed Forces, including  
4 the National Guard and Reserves; and

5 “(II) was discharged or released  
6 from such service under conditions  
7 other than dishonorable; and

8 “(iv) a spouse or dependent of an indi-  
9 vidual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii);  
10 and

11 “(B) the term ‘Vet Center’ means a center  
12 for readjustment counseling and related mental  
13 health services for veterans under section 1712A  
14 of title 38, United States Code.

15 “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established a  
16 program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Pro-  
17 gram’ to provide entrepreneurship training to covered  
18 individuals, which shall be carried out by the Admin-  
19 istrator.

20 “(3) *GOALS.*—The goals of the Boots to Business  
21 Program are to—

22 “(A) provide exposure, introduction, and  
23 in-depth training for covered individuals inter-  
24 ested in business ownership; and

1           “(B) provide covered individuals with the  
 2           tools and knowledge necessary to identify a busi-  
 3           ness opportunity, draft a business plan, identify  
 4           sources of capital, connect with local small busi-  
 5           ness resources, and launch a small business con-  
 6           cern.

7           “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

8           “(A) IN GENERAL.—*The Boots to Business*  
 9           *Program may include—*

10           “(i) a brief presentation providing ex-  
 11           posure to the considerations involved in self-  
 12           employment and small business ownership;

13           “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-  
 14           cused on the basic skills of entrepreneurship,  
 15           the language of business, and the consider-  
 16           ations involved in self-employment and  
 17           small business ownership;

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

1                   “(B) *COLLABORATION.*—*The Administrator*  
2                   *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) *modify program components in*  
7                   *coordination with entities participating in*  
8                   *the Warriors in Transition programs, as de-*  
9                   *finied in section 738(f) of the National De-*  
10                  *fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year*  
11                  *2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).*

12                  “(C) *UTILIZATION OF RESOURCE PART-*  
13                  *NERS.—*

14                  “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Associate Ad-*  
15                  *ministrator shall—*

16                  “(I) *ensure that veterans’ business*  
17                  *outreach centers regularly participate,*  
18                  *on a nationwide basis, in the Boots to*  
19                  *Business program; and*

20                  “(II) *to the maximum extent*  
21                  *practicable, use a variety of other re-*  
22                  *source partners and entities in admin-*  
23                  *istering the Boots to Business program.*

24                  “(ii) *GRANT AUTHORITY.*—*In carrying*  
25                  *out clause (i), the Associate Administrator*

1           *may make grants to veterans' business out-*  
2           *reach centers, other resource partners, and*  
3           *other entities to carry out components of the*  
4           *Boots to Business Program.*

5           “(D) *AVAILABILITY TO DOD.—The Adminis-*  
6           *trator shall—*

7                   “(i) *make available electronically in-*  
8                   *formation regarding the Boots to Business*  
9                   *Program and all course materials created*  
10                  *for the Boots to Business Program to the*  
11                  *Secretary of Defense for inclusion on the*  
12                  *website of the Department of Defense relat-*  
13                  *ing to the Transition Assistance Program*  
14                  *and in the Transition Assistance Program*  
15                  *manual and other publications and mate-*  
16                  *rials available for distribution from the Sec-*  
17                  *retary of Defense; and*

18                  “(ii) *fully participate in the inter-*  
19                  *agency governance of the Transition Assist-*  
20                  *ance Program.*

21           “(E) *AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-*  
22           *FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of*  
23           *Veterans Affairs, the Associate Administrator*  
24           *shall make available outreach materials regard-*  
25           *ing the Boots to Business Program for distribu-*

tion and display at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (including medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers, and other facilities determined appropriate by the Associate Administrator and the Secretary), which shall, at minimum—

“(i) describe the Boots to Business Program, including a description of services provided; and

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

“(5) REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives an annual report regarding the awarding of grants under the Boots to Business Program.

“(e) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means an individual who—

“(A) is female; and

“(B) is—

“(i) a member of the Armed Forces;

1                   “(ii) a veteran; or

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

4                   “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Administrator shall  
5                   establish a program, to be known as the Women Vet-  
6                   erans Business Training Program, to provide specific  
7                   training for covered individuals interested in explor-  
8                   ing careers as owners of small business concerns.

9                   “(3) *GOALS.*—The goals of the Women Veterans  
10                  Business Training Program are to—

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

13                  “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,  
14                  focus, and drive of covered individuals into a  
15                  premier education training program taught by  
16                  accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneur-  
17                  ship educators from across the United States.

18                  “(4) *PROGRAM COMPONENTS.*—

19                  “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Women Veterans  
20                  Business Training Program may include—

21                  “(i) an online, self-study course focused  
22                  on the basic skills of entrepreneurship and  
23                  the language of business;

24                  “(ii) a conference where participants  
25                  are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs

1                   *and entrepreneurship educators from across*  
 2                   *the United States; and*

3                   “(iii) *a plan to provide ongoing sup-*  
 4                   *port and mentorship.*

5                   “(B) *COLLABORATION.—The Administrator*  
 6                   *may collaborate with public and private entities*  
 7                   *to develop a course curriculum for the Women*  
 8                   *Veterans Business Training Program.*

9                   “(5) *WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING.—*  
 10                  *The Associate Administrator shall—*

11                  “(A) *compile information on resources*  
 12                  *available to women veterans for business train-*  
 13                  *ing, including resources for—*

14                   “(i) *vocational and technical edu-*  
 15                   *cation;*

16                   “(ii) *general business skills, such as*  
 17                   *marketing and accounting; and*

18                   “(iii) *business assistance programs tar-*  
 19                   *geted to women veterans;*

20                  “(B) *disseminate the information compiled*  
 21                  *under subparagraph (A) through veterans’ busi-*  
 22                  *ness outreach centers and women’s business cen-*  
 23                  *ters; and*

24                  “(C) *in consultation with the Secretary of*  
 25                  *Veterans Affairs, make available outreach mate-*

1        *rials regarding the Women Veterans Business*  
 2        *Training Program for distribution and display*  
 3        *at local facilities of the Department of Veterans*  
 4        *Affairs (including medical centers, community-*  
 5        *based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as defined*  
 6        *in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities deter-*  
 7        *mined appropriate by the Associate Adminis-*  
 8        *trator and the Secretary), which shall, at a min-*  
 9        *imum—*

10                *“(i) describe the Women Veterans Busi-*  
 11                *ness Training Program, including a de-*  
 12                *scription of services provided; and*

13                *“(ii) include eligibility requirements*  
 14                *for participating in the Women Veterans*  
 15                *Business Training Program.*

16                *“(6) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Admin-*  
 17                *istrator may make grants to veterans’ business out-*  
 18                *reach centers, women’s business centers, and other en-*  
 19                *tities, including other resource partners, to carry out*  
 20                *components of the Women Veterans Business Training*  
 21                *Program.*

22                *“(f) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE DIS-*  
 23                *ABLED VETERANS.—*

24                *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-*  
 25                *tablish a Business Training Program for Service Dis-*

1        *abled Veterans to provide specific training for service-*  
2        *disabled veterans interested in exploring careers as*  
3        *owners of small business concerns.*

4            “(2) *GOALS.—The goals of the Business Train-*  
5        *ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans are to—*

6            “(A) *help service-disabled veterans by pro-*  
7        *viding the tools to become successful entre-*  
8        *preneurs; and*

9            “(B) *integrate the leadership, integrity,*  
10       *focus, and drive of service-disabled veterans into*  
11       *a premier education training program taught by*  
12       *accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneur-*  
13       *ship educators from across the United States.*

14          “(3) *PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—*

15          “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Business Training*  
16       *Program for Service Disabled Veterans may in-*  
17       *clude—*

18            “(i) *an online, self-study course focused*  
19        *on the basic skills of entrepreneurship and*  
20        *the language of business;*

21            “(ii) *a conference where participants*  
22        *are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs*  
23        *and entrepreneurship educators from across*  
24        *the United States; and*

1                   “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-  
2                   port and mentorship.

3                   “(B) *COLLABORATION.*—*The Administrator*  
4                   *may collaborate with public and private entities*  
5                   *to develop a course curriculum for the Business*  
6                   *Training Program for Service Disabled Veterans.*

7                   “(4) *AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AFFAIRS.*—*In*  
8                   *consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,*  
9                   *the Associate Administrator shall make available out-*  
10                  *reach materials regarding the Business Training Pro-*  
11                  *gram for Service Disabled Veterans for distribution*  
12                  *and display at local facilities of the Department of*  
13                  *Veterans Affairs (including medical centers, commu-*  
14                  *nity-based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as defined*  
15                  *in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities determined*  
16                  *appropriate by the Associate Administrator and the*  
17                  *Secretary), which shall, at minimum—*

18                  “(A) *describe the Business Training Pro-*  
19                  *gram for Service Disabled Veterans, including a*  
20                  *description of services provided; and*

21                  “(B) *include eligibility requirements for*  
22                  *participating in the Business Training Program*  
23                  *for Service Disabled Veterans.*

24                  “(5) *GRANT AUTHORITY.*—*The Associate Admin-*  
25                  *istrator may make grants to veterans’ business out-*

1        *reach centers and other entities, including other re-*  
 2        *source partners, to carry out components of the Busi-*  
 3        *ness Training Program for Service Disabled Veterans.*

4        *“(g) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PRO-*  
 5        *GRAM.—*

6                *“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—*

7                        *“(A) the term ‘active duty’ has the meaning*  
 8                        *given that term in section 101 of title 10, United*  
 9                        *States Code;*

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

14                      *“(C) the term ‘small business concern owned*  
 15                      *and controlled by veterans’—*

16                                *“(i) has the meaning given that term*  
 17                                *in section 3(q); and*

18                                *“(ii) includes a small business con-*  
 19                                *cern—*

20                                        *“(I) not less than 51 percent of*  
 21                                        *which is owned by 1 or more spouses*  
 22                                        *of veterans or, in the case of any pub-*  
 23                                        *licly owned business, not less than 51*  
 24                                        *percent of the stock of which is owned*  
 25                                        *by 1 or more spouses of veterans; and*

1                   “(II) the management and daily  
 2                   business operations of which are con-  
 3                   trolled by 1 or more spouses of vet-  
 4                   erans;

5                   “(D) the term ‘spouse’, relating to a member  
 6                   of the Armed Forces on active duty, veteran,  
 7                   service-disabled veteran, or Reservist, includes an  
 8                   individual who, on the date on which the mem-  
 9                   ber of the Armed Forces on active duty, veteran,  
 10                  service-disabled veteran, or Reservist died, is the  
 11                  spouse of the member of the Armed Forces on ac-  
 12                  tive duty, veteran, service-disabled veteran, or  
 13                  Reservist; and

14                  “(E) the term ‘veterans’ business outreach  
 15                  center program’ means the program established  
 16                  under paragraph (2)(A).

17                  “(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

18                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, act-  
 19                  ing through the Associate Administrator, shall  
 20                  establish a veterans’ business outreach center  
 21                  program, under which the Associate Adminis-  
 22                  trator may provide financial assistance to edu-  
 23                  cational institutions, veterans’ nonprofit commu-  
 24                  nity-based organizations, and Federal, State,  
 25                  and local departments and agencies to conduct a

1       5-year project for the benefit of small business  
2       concerns owned and controlled by veterans,  
3       which, upon application by the entity receiving  
4       financial assistance, may be renewed for 1 or  
5       more additional 5-year periods.

6               “(B) *FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.*—  
7       Financial assistance under this subsection may  
8       be in the form of a grant, a contract, or a coop-  
9       erative agreement.

10              “(3) *VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CEN-*  
11       *TERS.*—Each entity that receives financial assistance  
12       under this subsection shall establish or operate a vet-  
13       erans’ business outreach center (which may include  
14       establishing or operating satellite offices in the region  
15       described in paragraph (5) served by that entity) that  
16       provides to veterans (including service-disabled vet-  
17       erans), Reservists, and the spouses of members of the  
18       Armed Forces on active duty, veterans (including  
19       service-disabled veterans), and Reservists—

20              “(A) financial advice, including training  
21       and counseling on applying for and securing  
22       business credit and investment capital, pre-  
23       paring and presenting financial statements, and  
24       managing cash flow and other financial oper-  
25       ations of a small business concern;

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

6           “(C) technical assistance, training, and  
 7           counseling to assist in identifying and obtaining  
 8           Federal procurement opportunities;

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

16          “(E) other advice, including training and  
 17          counseling.

18          “(4) APPLICATION.—

19               “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring to  
 20               receive financial assistance under this subsection  
 21               shall submit an application to the Associate Ad-  
 22               ministrator at such time and in such manner as  
 23               the Associate Administrator may require.

24               “(B) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Each application de-  
 25               scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include a 5-

1        *year plan on proposed fundraising and training*  
 2        *activities relating to the veterans’ business out-*  
 3        *reach center.*

4                “(C) *DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.*—  
 5        *Not later than 90 days after the date on which*  
 6        *applications for a fiscal year are required to be*  
 7        *submitted under subparagraph (A), the Associate*  
 8        *Administrator shall approve or deny any appli-*  
 9        *cation submitted and notify the applicant of the*  
 10        *determination.*

11               “(D) *AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION.*—*The*  
 12        *Associate Administrator shall make every effort*  
 13        *to make the application under subparagraph (A)*  
 14        *available online.*

15               “(5) *ELIGIBILITY.*—*The Associate Administrator*  
 16        *may select to receive financial assistance under this*  
 17        *subsection—*

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

22               “(B) *educational institutions, veterans’*  
 23        *nonprofit community-based organizations, and*  
 24        *Federal, State, and local departments and agen-*  
 25        *cies located in various regions of the United*

1       *States, as the Associate Administrator deter-*  
 2       *mines is appropriate.*

3       “(6) *SELECTION CRITERIA.*—

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

9               “(B) *CRITERIA.*—*The selection criteria es-*  
 10       *tablished under this paragraph shall include—*

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

20               “(ii) *for an applicant for initial finan-*  
 21       *cial assistance under this subsection—*

22               “(I) *the ability of the applicant to*  
 23       *begin operating a veterans’ business*  
 24       *outreach center within a minimum*  
 25       *amount of time; and*

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

4                   “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the  
5                   applicant to—

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

9                   “(II) coordinate services provided  
10                  by veterans service organizations and  
11                  other public or private entities;

12                  “(iv) the demonstrated ability to lever-  
13                  age and coordinate with existing resources  
14                  and infrastructure of the Administration;  
15                  and

16                  “(v) for any applicant for a renewal of  
17                  financial assistance under this subsection,  
18                  the results of the most recent examination  
19                  under paragraph (11) of the veterans’ busi-  
20                  ness outreach center operated by the appli-  
21                  cant.

22                  “(C) CRITERIA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The  
23                  Associate Administrator shall—

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

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

7           “(iii) *make every effort to ensure re-*  
 8           *gional accessibility and geographic rep-*  
 9           *resentation in awarding financial assist-*  
 10          *ance under this subsection; and*

11          “(iv) *to the extent practicable, make*  
 12          *publicly available the approximate antici-*  
 13          *pated date for the determination of award*  
 14          *recipients by the Administration and the*  
 15          *anticipated timing of disbursement.*

16          “(7) *AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of*  
 17          *financial assistance provided under this subsection to*  
 18          *an entity for each fiscal year shall be not less than*  
 19          *\$100,000.*

20          “(8) *FEDERAL SHARE.—*

21               “(A) *IN GENERAL.—*

22                   “(i) *INITIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—*  
 23                   *Except as provided in clause (ii) and sub-*  
 24                   *paragraph (E), an entity that receives fi-*  
 25                   *nancial assistance under this subsection*

1           *shall provide non-Federal contributions for*  
2           *the operation of the veterans' business out-*  
3           *reach center established by the entity in an*  
4           *amount equal to—*

5                     *“(I) in each of the first and sec-*  
6                     *ond years of the project, not less than*  
7                     *33 percent of the amount of the finan-*  
8                     *cial assistance received under this sub-*  
9                     *section; and*

10                    *“(II) in each of the third through*  
11                    *fifth years of the project, not less than*  
12                    *50 percent of the amount of the finan-*  
13                    *cial assistance received under this sub-*  
14                    *section.*

15                    *“(ii) RENEWALS.—An entity that re-*  
16                    *ceives a renewal of financial assistance*  
17                    *under this subsection shall provide non-Fed-*  
18                    *eral contributions for the operation of the*  
19                    *veterans' business outreach center estab-*  
20                    *lished by the entity in an amount equal to*  
21                    *not less than 50 percent of the amount of*  
22                    *the financial assistance received under this*  
23                    *subsection.*

24                    *“(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Not*  
25                    *more than 50 percent of the non-Federal share*

1       for a project carried out using financial assist-  
 2       ance under this subsection may be in the form  
 3       of in-kind contributions.

4               “(C) *TIMING OF DISBURSEMENT.*—*The As-*  
 5       *sociate Administrator may disburse not more*  
 6       *than 25 percent of the financial assistance*  
 7       *awarded to an entity before the entity obtains*  
 8       *the non-Federal share required under this para-*  
 9       *graph with respect to that award.*

10              “(D) *FAILURE TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL*  
 11       *FUNDING.*—

12               “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*If an entity that*  
 13       *receives financial assistance under this sub-*  
 14       *section fails to obtain the non-Federal share*  
 15       *required under this paragraph during 2*  
 16       *consecutive fiscal years, the entity may not*  
 17       *receive a disbursement under this subsection*  
 18       *in a subsequent fiscal year or a disburse-*  
 19       *ment for any other project funded by the*  
 20       *Administration, unless the Administrator*  
 21       *makes a written determination that the en-*  
 22       *tity will be able to obtain a non-Federal*  
 23       *contribution.*

24               “(ii) *RESTORATION.*—*An entity pro-*  
 25       *hibited from receiving a disbursement under*

1           *clause (i) in a fiscal year may receive fi-*  
 2           *nancial assistance in a subsequent fiscal*  
 3           *year if the entity obtains the non-Federal*  
 4           *share required under this paragraph for the*  
 5           *subsequent fiscal year.*

6           “(E) *WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.*—

7                   “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—Upon request by an  
 8           *entity, and in accordance with this sub-*  
 9           *paragraph, the Administrator may waive,*  
 10          *in whole or in part, the requirement to ob-*  
 11          *tain non-Federal funds under subparagraph*  
 12          *(A) for a fiscal year. The Administrator*  
 13          *may not waive the requirement for an enti-*  
 14          *ty to obtain non-Federal funds under this*  
 15          *subparagraph for more than a total of 2 fis-*  
 16          *cal years.*

17                   “(ii) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—In deter-  
 18          *mining whether to waive the requirement to*  
 19          *obtain non-Federal funds under this sub-*  
 20          *paragraph, the Administrator shall con-*  
 21          *sider—*

22                           “(I) *the economic conditions af-*  
 23                           *fecting the entity;*

24                           “(II) *the impact a waiver under*  
 25                           *this subparagraph would have on the*

1                   *credibility of the veterans' business out-*  
 2                   *reach center program;*

3                   *“(III) the demonstrated ability of*  
 4                   *the entity to raise non-Federal funds;*  
 5                   *and*

6                   *“(IV) the performance of the enti-*  
 7                   *ty.*

8                   *“(iii) LIMITATION.—The Adminis-*  
 9                   *trator may not waive the requirement to ob-*  
 10                  *tain non-Federal funds under this subpara-*  
 11                  *graph if granting the waiver would under-*  
 12                  *mine the credibility of the veterans' business*  
 13                  *outreach center program.*

14                  *“(9) AFFILIATION WITH SMALL BUSINESS DEVEL-*  
 15                  *OPMENT CENTERS.—*

16                  *“(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity receiving fi-*  
 17                  *nancial assistance under this subsection shall*  
 18                  *enter into an agreement to affiliate with a small*  
 19                  *business development center for purposes of car-*  
 20                  *rying out the activities of the entity using the fi-*  
 21                  *nancial assistance.*

22                  *“(B) CONSISTENCY WITH AGREEMENT.—*  
 23                  *The terms of an agreement to affiliate under sub-*  
 24                  *paragraph (A) shall be in accordance with the*  
 25                  *terms of any agreement between the applicable*

1           *small business development center and the Ad-*  
 2           *ministration.*

3           “(10) *CONTRACT AUTHORITY.*—*A veterans’ busi-*  
 4           *ness outreach center may enter into a contract with*  
 5           *a Federal department or agency to provide specific*  
 6           *assistance to veterans, service-disabled veterans, Re-*  
 7           *servists, or the spouses of members of the Armed*  
 8           *Forces on active duty, veterans, service-disabled vet-*  
 9           *erans, or Reservists with prior written approval of*  
 10           *the Associate Administrator. Performance of such con-*  
 11           *tract shall not hinder the veterans’ business outreach*  
 12           *center in carrying out the terms of the grant received*  
 13           *by the veterans’ business outreach center from the Ad-*  
 14           *ministrator.*

15           “(11) *EXAMINATION AND DETERMINATION OF*  
 16           *PERFORMANCE.*—

17           “(A) *EXAMINATION.*—

18           “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 180*  
 19           *days after the date of enactment of this sub-*  
 20           *section and every year thereafter, the Asso-*  
 21           *ciate Administrator shall conduct an an-*  
 22           *nuual examination of the programs and fi-*  
 23           *nances of each veterans’ business outreach*  
 24           *center established or operated using finan-*  
 25           *cial assistance under this subsection.*

1           “(ii) *FACTORS.*—*In conducting the ex-*  
2           *amination under clause (i), the Associate*  
3           *Administrator shall consider whether the*  
4           *veterans’ business outreach center has*  
5           *failed—*

6                   “(I) *to provide the information*  
7                   *required to be provided under subpara-*  
8                   *graph (B), or the information provided*  
9                   *by the center is inadequate;*

10                   “(II) *to comply with a require-*  
11                   *ment for participation in the veterans’*  
12                   *business outreach center program, as*  
13                   *determined by the Associate Adminis-*  
14                   *trator, including—*

15                           “(aa) *failure to acquire or*  
16                           *properly document a non-Federal*  
17                           *share;*

18                           “(bb) *failure to establish an*  
19                           *appropriate partnership or pro-*  
20                           *gram for marketing and outreach*  
21                           *to small business concerns;*

22                           “(cc) *failure to achieve re-*  
23                           *sults described in a financial as-*  
24                           *sistance agreement; and*

1                   “(dd) failure to provide to  
2                   the Administrator a description of  
3                   the amount and sources of any  
4                   non-Federal funding received by  
5                   the center;

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

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

10                  “(V) to serve small business con-  
11                  cerns in the geographic region served  
12                  by the veterans’ business outreach cen-  
13                  ter.

14                  “(B) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—In the  
15                  course of an examination under subparagraph  
16                  (A), the veterans’ business outreach center shall  
17                  provide to the Associate Administrator—

18                  “(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-  
19                  tual expenditures for costs incurred during  
20                  the most recent full fiscal year, including  
21                  the amount spent on administrative ex-  
22                  penses;

23                  “(ii) documentation of the amount of  
24                  non-Federal contributions obtained and ex-  
25                  pended by the veterans’ business outreach

center during the most recent full fiscal year;

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

“(iv) any additional information the Associate Administrator determines necessary.

“(C) DETERMINATION OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall analyze the results of each examination under subparagraph (A) and, based on that analysis, make a determination regarding the performance of the programs and finances of each veterans’ business outreach center.

“(ii) NONDELEGATION OF DETERMINATION.—The duty under clause (i) to make a determination regarding the performance of the programs and finances of a veterans’ business outreach center may not be delegated.

“(D) DISCONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—

1                   “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Associate Ad-*  
 2                   *ministrator may discontinue an award of*  
 3                   *financial assistance to an entity at any*  
 4                   *time for poor performance as determined*  
 5                   *under subparagraph (C).*

6                   “(ii) *RESTORATION.*—*The Associate*  
 7                   *Administrator may continue to provide fi-*  
 8                   *nancial assistance to an entity in a subse-*  
 9                   *quent fiscal year if the Associate Adminis-*  
 10                   *trator determines under subparagraph (C)*  
 11                   *that the veterans’ business outreach center*  
 12                   *has taken appropriate measures to improve*  
 13                   *its performance and it is viable.*

14                   “(12) *COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND CON-*  
 15                   *SULTATION.*—

16                   “(A) *COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.*—  
 17                   *To the extent practicable, the Associate Adminis-*  
 18                   *trator and each entity that receives financial as-*  
 19                   *sistance under this subsection shall—*

20                   “(i) *coordinate outreach and other ac-*  
 21                   *tivities with other programs of the Adminis-*  
 22                   *tration and the programs of other Federal*  
 23                   *agencies, including programs at local facili-*  
 24                   *ties of the Department of Veterans Affairs;*

1           “(ii) consult with technical representa-  
 2           tives of the district offices of the Adminis-  
 3           tration in carrying out activities using fi-  
 4           nancial assistance under this subsection;  
 5           and

6           “(iii) provide information to the vet-  
 7           erans business development officers des-  
 8           ignated under subparagraph (B) and co-  
 9           ordinate with the veterans business develop-  
 10          ment officers to increase the ability of the  
 11          veterans business development officers to  
 12          provide services throughout the area served  
 13          by the veterans business development offi-  
 14          cers.

15          “(B) VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
 16          OFFICERS.—

17               “(i) DESIGNATION.—The Adminis-  
 18               trator shall designate not fewer than 1 indi-  
 19               vidual in each district office of the Admin-  
 20               istration as a veterans business development  
 21               officer, who shall communicate and coordi-  
 22               nate activities of the district office with en-  
 23               tities that receive financial assistance under  
 24               this subsection.

1                   “(ii) *INITIAL DESIGNATION.*—*The first*  
 2                   *individual in each district office of the Ad-*  
 3                   *ministration designated by the Adminis-*  
 4                   *trator as a veterans business development*  
 5                   *officer under clause (i) shall be an indi-*  
 6                   *vidual that is employed by the Administra-*  
 7                   *tion on the date of enactment of this sub-*  
 8                   *section.*

9                   “(13) *EXISTING CONTRACTS.*—*An award of fi-*  
 10                  *nancial assistance under this subsection shall not void*  
 11                  *any contract or cooperative agreement between any*  
 12                  *entity and the Administration or grant to any entity*  
 13                  *from the Administration that is in effect on the date*  
 14                  *of such award.*

15                  “(h) *VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE PILOT*  
 16                  *PROGRAM.*—

17                  “(1) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection—*

18                         “(A) *the term ‘covered individual’ means—*

19                                 “(i) *a member of the Armed Forces on*  
 20                                 *active duty, as defined in section 101(d)(1)*  
 21                                 *of title 10, United States Code;*

22                                 “(ii) *a member of the Armed Forces*  
 23                                 *who is participating in the Transition As-*  
 24                                 *sistance Program of the Department of De-*  
 25                                 *fense;*

1                   “(iii) a member of a reserve component  
2                   of the Armed Forces named in section  
3                   10101 of title 10, United States Code;

4                   “(iv) a veteran; and

5                   “(v) a spouse or dependent of an indi-  
6                   vidual described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or  
7                   (iv);

8                   “(B) the term ‘institution of higher edu-  
9                   cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
10                  tion 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
11                  (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

12                  “(C) the term ‘pilot program’ means the  
13                  Veterans Business Owners Initiative Pilot Pro-  
14                  gram established under paragraph (2).

15                  “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than 90 days  
16                  after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Ad-  
17                  ministrator shall establish a pilot program, to be  
18                  known as the Veterans Business Owners Initiative  
19                  Pilot Program, to provide grants to nonprofit entities  
20                  to carry out peer support groups that provide train-  
21                  ing to covered individuals interested in exploring ca-  
22                  reers as owners of small business concerns.

23                  “(3) *GOALS.*—The goals of the pilot program  
24                  are—

1           “(A) to facilitate training for covered indi-  
 2           viduals, staff, and mentors to develop the assist-  
 3           ance to be provided through peer support groups  
 4           under the pilot program, including education,  
 5           coaching, peer support, business mentoring, and  
 6           benefits counseling; and

7           “(B) to arrange for external assistance, in-  
 8           cluding micro-financing, for covered individuals.

9           “(4) APPLICATION.—A nonprofit entity that de-  
 10          sires a grant under the pilot program shall submit to  
 11          the Administrator an application at such time, in  
 12          such manner, and containing such information as the  
 13          Administrator may require.

14          “(5) PILOT PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—Activities  
 15          carried out through a peer support group under the  
 16          pilot program may include—

17               “(A) providing assistance to covered indi-  
 18               viduals to identify their passions and skill sets  
 19               with respect to business, including coaching and  
 20               mentorship for covered individuals who suffer  
 21               from the consequences of being at war;

22               “(B) providing exposure to covered individ-  
 23               uals to the considerations involved in self-em-  
 24               ployment and small business ownership;

1           “(C) *an instruction component that pro-*  
 2           *vides an introduction to the foundations of self-*  
 3           *employment and small business ownership; and*

4           “(D) *in-depth training that leads to the cre-*  
 5           *ation of a business plan.*

6           “(6) *COLLABORATION.—The Administrator*  
 7           *may—*

8           “(A) *collaborate with public and private en-*  
 9           *tities to develop a course initiative for peer sup-*  
 10           *port groups carried out under the pilot program;*  
 11           *and*

12           “(B) *design the course curriculum to allow*  
 13           *covered individuals to receive college credit or a*  
 14           *certificate through an institution of higher edu-*  
 15           *cation upon completion of all components of the*  
 16           *curriculum.*

17           “(i) *ONLINE COORDINATION.—*

18           “(1) *DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term*  
 19           *‘veterans’ assistance provider’ means—*

20           “(A) *a veterans’ business outreach center es-*  
 21           *tablished under subsection (g);*

22           “(B) *an employee of the Administration as-*  
 23           *signed to the Office of Veterans Business Devel-*  
 24           *opment; or*

1                   “(C) a veterans business development officer  
2                   designated under subsection (g)(12)(B).

3                   “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Associate Adminis-*  
4                   *trator shall establish an online mechanism to—*

5                   “(A) provide information that assists vet-  
6                   erans’ assistance providers in carrying out the  
7                   activities of the veterans’ assistance providers;  
8                   and

9                   “(B) coordinate and leverage the work of the  
10                  veterans’ assistance providers, including by al-  
11                  lowing a veterans’ assistance provider to—

12                  “(i) distribute best practices and other  
13                  materials;

14                  “(ii) communicate with other veterans’  
15                  assistance providers regarding the activities  
16                  of the veterans’ assistance provider on behalf  
17                  of veterans; and

18                  “(iii) pose questions to and request  
19                  input from other veterans’ assistance pro-  
20                  viders.

21                  “(j) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*  
22                  *authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016*  
23                  *through 2020—*

24                  “(1) \$2,500,000 to carry out subsection (g);

1           “(2) \$8,000,000 to carry out subsections (d), (e),  
2           and (f); and

3           “(3) such sums as may be necessary to carry out  
4           subsection (h).

5           “(k) *LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL.*—

6           “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Financial assistance made*  
7           *available under this section may not be used for trav-*  
8           *el outside of the United States (as defined in section*  
9           *202(a)(7) of the State Department Basic Authorities*  
10           *Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4302(a)(7)) until after the*  
11           *date on which the Administrator submits to the Com-*  
12           *mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of*  
13           *the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of*  
14           *the House of Representatives a plan describing how*  
15           *services will provided by recipients, and how the Ad-*  
16           *ministrator will oversee the provision of services, out-*  
17           *side of the United States.*

18           “(2) *MAXIMUM AMOUNT.*—*After the date de-*  
19           *scribed in paragraph (1), a recipient of financial as-*  
20           *istance made available under this section may use*  
21           *not more than 5 percent of the amount of the finan-*  
22           *cial assistance for travel outside of the United States.*

23           “(l) *REPORTS.*—*Not later than 180 days after the date*  
24           *of enactment of this subsection and every year thereafter,*  
25           *the Associate Administrator shall submit to the Committee*

1 *on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and*  
 2 *the Committee on Small Business of the House of Represent-*  
 3 *atives a report on the performance and effectiveness for the*  
 4 *programs authorized under this section, which may be in-*  
 5 *cluded as part of another report submitted to the Committee*  
 6 *on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and*  
 7 *the Committee on Small Business of the House of Represent-*  
 8 *atives by the Associate Administrator, and which shall in-*  
 9 *clude the following:*

10           “(1) *BOOTS TO BUSINESS.—For the Boots to*  
 11           *Business Program under subsection (d)—*

12                   “(A) *the number of program participants*  
 13                   *using each component of the Boots to Business*  
 14                   *Program;*

15                   “(B) *the completion rates for each compo-*  
 16                   *nent of the Boots to Business Program;*

17                   “(C) *to the extent possible—*

18                           “(i) *the demographics of program par-*  
 19                           *ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-*  
 20                           *tionship to military, Military Occupational*  
 21                           *Code, and years of service of program par-*  
 22                           *ticipants;*

23                           “(ii) *the number of small business con-*  
 24                           *cerns formed or expanded with assistance*  
 25                           *under the Boots to Business Program;*

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

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

7           “(v) the number of referrals to other re-  
8           sources 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 loan programs 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          “(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the  
22          program in each region of the Administration  
23          during the most recent fiscal year;

24          “(E) an assessment of additional perform-  
25          ance outcome measures for the Boots to Business

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

3            *“(F) any recommendations of the Adminis-*  
 4        *trator for improvement of the Boots to Business*  
 5        *Program, which may include expansion of the*  
 6        *types of individuals who are covered individuals;*

7            *“(G) an explanation of how the Boots to*  
 8        *Business program has been integrated with other*  
 9        *transition programs and related resources of the*  
 10       *Administration and other Federal agencies; and*

11           *“(H) any additional information the Ad-*  
 12        *ministrator determines necessary.*

13           *“(2) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING*  
 14        *PROGRAM.—For the Women Veterans Business Train-*  
 15        *ing Program under subsection (e)—*

16           *“(A) the number of program participants*  
 17        *using each component of the Women Veterans*  
 18        *Business Training Program;*

19           *“(B) the completion rates for each compo-*  
 20        *nent of the Women Veterans Business Training*  
 21        *Program;*

22           *“(C) to the extent possible—*

23           *“(i) the demographics of program par-*  
 24        *ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-*  
 25        *tionship to military, and years of service;*

1           “(ii) *the number of small business con-*  
2           *cerns formed or expanded with assistance*  
3           *under the Women Veterans Business Train-*  
4           *ing Program;*

5           “(iii) *the gross receipts of small busi-*  
6           *ness concerns receiving assistance under the*  
7           *Women Veterans Business Training Pro-*  
8           *gram;*

9           “(iv) *the number of jobs created with*  
10          *assistance under the Women Veterans Busi-*  
11          *ness Training Program;*

12          “(v) *the number of referrals to other re-*  
13          *sources and programs of the Administra-*  
14          *tion;*

15          “(vi) *the number of referrals from other*  
16          *resources and programs of the Administra-*  
17          *tion and other Federal agencies;*

18          “(vii) *the number of program partici-*  
19          *pants receiving financial assistance under*  
20          *loan programs of the Administration;*

21          “(viii) *the type and dollar amount of*  
22          *financial assistance received by program*  
23          *participants under loan programs of the*  
24          *Administration; and*

1                   “(ix) the results of participant satisfac-  
 2                   tion surveys, including a summary of any  
 3                   comments received from program partici-  
 4                   pants;

5                   “(D) an assessment of additional perform-  
 6                   ance outcome measures for the Women Veterans  
 7                   Business Training Program, as identified by the  
 8                   Associate Administrator;

9                   “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
 10                  trator for improvement of the Women Veterans  
 11                  Business Training Program;

12                  “(F) an explanation of how the Women Vet-  
 13                  erans Business Training Program has been inte-  
 14                  grated with other transition programs and re-  
 15                  lated resources of the Administration and other  
 16                  Federal agencies; and

17                  “(G) any additional information the Ad-  
 18                  ministrator determines necessary.

19                  “(3) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE  
 20                  DISABLED VETERANS.—For the Business Training  
 21                  Program for Service Disabled Veterans under sub-  
 22                  section (f)—

23                  “(A) the number of program participants  
 24                  using each component of the Business Training  
 25                  Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

1           “(B) the completion rates for each compo-  
2           nent of the Business Training Program for Serv-  
3           ice Disabled Veterans;

4           “(C) to the extent possible—

5                 “(i) the demographics of program par-  
6                 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
7                 tionship to military, and years of service;

8                 “(ii) the number of small business con-  
9                 cerns formed or expanded with assistance  
10                under the Business Training Program for  
11                Service Disabled Veterans;

12               “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
13               ness concerns receiving assistance under the  
14               Business Training Program for Service Dis-  
15               abled Veterans;

16               “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
17               assistance under the Business Training  
18               Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

19               “(v) the number of referrals to other re-  
20               sources and programs of the Administra-  
21               tion;

22               “(vi) the number of referrals from other  
23               resources and programs of the Administra-  
24               tion and other Federal agencies;

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

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

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

12          “(D) an assessment of additional perform-  
13          ance outcome measures for the Business Training  
14          Program for Service Disabled Veterans, as iden-  
15          tified by the Associate Administrator;

16          “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
17          trator for improvement of the Business Training  
18          Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

19          “(F) an explanation of how the Business  
20          Training Program for Service Disabled Veterans  
21          has been integrated with other transition pro-  
22          grams and related resources of the Administra-  
23          tion and other Federal agencies; and

24          “(G) any additional information the Ad-  
25          ministrator determines necessary.

1           “(4) *VETERAN’S BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER*  
 2           *PROGRAM.—For the veterans’ business outreach center*  
 3           *program under subsection (g)—*

4                   “(A) *an evaluation of the effectiveness of the*  
 5                   *veterans’ business outreach center program in*  
 6                   *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 as-*  
 10                  *sistance provided under subsection (g)—*

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 Re-*  
 20                           *servists; or*

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

23                   “(ii) *the average distance traveled by*  
 24                   *veterans to access services at the veterans’*  
 25                   *business outreach center;*

1           “(iii) the number of small business  
2           concerns formed by individuals receiving  
3           assistance from the veterans’ business out-  
4           reach center, including—

5                   “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-  
6                   erans;

7                   “(II) service-disabled veterans or  
8                   spouses of service-disabled veterans;

9                   “(III) Reservists or spouses of Re-  
10                  servists; or

11                  “(IV) spouses of members of the  
12                  Armed Forces on active duty; and

13               “(iv) to the extent possible—

14                   “(I) the gross receipts of small  
15                   business concerns receiving assistance  
16                   from the veterans’ business outreach  
17                   center;

18                   “(II) the employment increases or  
19                   decreases of small business concerns re-  
20                   ceiving assistance from the veterans’  
21                   business outreach center;

22                   “(III) the increases or decreases in  
23                   profits of small business concerns re-  
24                   ceiving assistance from the veterans’  
25                   business outreach center;

1           “(IV) the number of referrals by  
2           the veterans’ business outreach center  
3           to other resources and programs of the  
4           Administration;

5           “(V) the results of satisfaction  
6           surveys, including a summary of any  
7           comments received from small business  
8           concerns receiving assistance from the  
9           veterans’ business outreach center;

10          “(VI) the number of small busi-  
11          ness concerns receiving assistance from  
12          the veterans’ business outreach center  
13          that received financial assistance  
14          under loan programs of the Adminis-  
15          tration;

16          “(VII) the type and dollar  
17          amount of financial assistance received  
18          under loan programs of the Adminis-  
19          tration by small business concerns re-  
20          ceiving assistance from the veterans’  
21          business outreach center;

22          “(VIII) the number of small busi-  
23          ness concerns receiving assistance from  
24          the veterans’ business outreach center  
25          that obtained a Federal contract

1                   *through a small business contracting*  
2                   *program;*

3                   “(IX) *the type and dollar amount*  
4                   *of the Federal contracts awarded to*  
5                   *small business concerns receiving as-*  
6                   *sistance from the veterans’ business*  
7                   *outreach center;*

8                   “(X) *an assessment of additional*  
9                   *performance outcome measures for the*  
10                  *veterans’ business outreach center, as*  
11                  *identified by the Associate Adminis-*  
12                  *trator; and*

13                  “(XI) *the results of the examina-*  
14                  *tion of the veterans’ business outreach*  
15                  *center under subsection (g)(10);*

16                  “(C) *any recommendations of the Adminis-*  
17                  *trator for improvement of the veterans’ business*  
18                  *outreach center program;*

19                  “(D) *an explanation of how the veterans’*  
20                  *business outreach center program has been inte-*  
21                  *grated with other transition programs and re-*  
22                  *lated resources of the Administration and other*  
23                  *Federal agencies; and*

24                  “(E) *any additional information the Ad-*  
25                  *ministrator determines necessary.*

1           “(5) *OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS ADMIN-*  
 2           *ISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DE-*  
 3           *VELOPMENT.—An evaluation of the effectiveness of*  
 4           *any other activities and programs administered by*  
 5           *the Office of Veterans Business Development, includ-*  
 6           *ing using the metrics identified in paragraphs (1)*  
 7           *through (4).*

8           “(6) *VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE*  
 9           *PILOT PROGRAM.—For the Veterans Business Owners*  
 10          *Initiative Pilot Program under subsection (h)—*

11                 “(A) *the number of program participants*  
 12                 *using each component of the Veteran Business*  
 13                 *Owners Initiative Pilot Program;*

14                 “(B) *the completion rates for each compo-*  
 15                 *nent of the Veteran Business Owners Initiative*  
 16                 *Pilot Program;*

17                 “(C) *to the extent possible—*

18                         “(i) *the demographics of program par-*  
 19                         *ticipants, including gender, age, race, rela-*  
 20                         *tionship to military, and years of service;*

21                         “(ii) *the number of small business con-*  
 22                         *cerns formed or expanded with assistance*  
 23                         *under the Veteran Business Owners Initia-*  
 24                         *tive Pilot Program;*

1           “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
2           ness concerns receiving assistance under the  
3           Veteran Business Owners Initiative Pilot  
4           Program;

5           “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
6           assistance under the Veteran Business Own-  
7           ers Initiative Pilot Program;

8           “(v) the number of referrals to other re-  
9           sources and programs of the Administra-  
10          tion;

11          “(vi) the number of referrals from other  
12          resources and programs of the Administra-  
13          tion and other Federal agencies;

14          “(vii) the number of program partici-  
15          pants receiving financial assistance under  
16          loan programs of the Administration;

17          “(viii) the type and dollar amount of  
18          financial assistance received by program  
19          participants under loan programs of the  
20          Administration; and

21          “(ix) the results of participant satisfac-  
22          tion surveys, including a summary of any  
23          comments received from program partici-  
24          pants;

1           “(D) an assessment of additional perform-  
 2           ance outcome measures for the Veteran Business  
 3           Owners Initiative Pilot Program, as identified  
 4           by the Associate Administrator;

5           “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
 6           trator for improvement of the Veteran Business  
 7           Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

8           “(F) an explanation of how the Veteran  
 9           Business Owners Initiative Pilot Program has  
 10          been integrated with other transition programs  
 11          and related resources of the Administration and  
 12          other Federal agencies; and

13          “(G) any additional information the Ad-  
 14          ministrator determines necessary.”.

15       (b) *FEDERAL SHARE FOR EXISTING PROGRAM.*—

16           (1) *DEFINITION.*—In this subsection, the term  
 17           “existing award” means an award made under the  
 18           Veterans’ Business Outreach Center Program of the  
 19           Small Business Administration before the date of en-  
 20           actment of this Act that is in effect on the date of en-  
 21           actment of this Act.

22           (2) *EXCEPTION FROM PROVISION ON FAILURE TO*  
 23           *OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL FUNDING.*—During the 2-year  
 24           period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act,  
 25           subsection (g)(8)(D) of section 32 of the Small Busi-

ness Act (15 U.S.C. 657b), as added by subsection (a),  
shall not apply to an existing award.

(c) GAO REPORTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “covered individual” means—

(i) a veteran;

(ii) a service-disabled veteran;

(iii) a Reservist;

(iv) the spouse of an individual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or

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

(B) the terms “Reservist”, “small business concern owned and controlled by veterans”, and “veterans’ business outreach center program” have the meanings given those terms in section 32(g) of the Small Business Act, as added by subsection (a); and

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

(2) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year 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' Affairs*  
 6                *and the Committee on Small Business and*  
 7                *Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and*

8                *(ii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs*  
 9                *and the Committee on Small Business of the*  
 10                *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 indi-*  
 19                *viduals that is obtained from each source;*

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

1                   (iii) *the Federal lending programs*  
 2                   *available to provide credit to small business*  
 3                   *concerns owned and controlled by covered*  
 4                   *individuals;*

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

10                  (v) *obstacles faced by covered individ-*  
 11                  *uals in trying to access credit;*

12                  (vi) *the extent to which deployment*  
 13                  *and other military responsibilities affect the*  
 14                  *credit history of veterans and Reservists;*  
 15                  *and*

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

20                  (3) *REPORT ON VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH*  
 21                  *CENTER PROGRAM.—*

22                  (A) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days*  
 23                  *after the end of the second fiscal year beginning*  
 24                  *after the date on which the veterans' business*  
 25                  *outreach center program is established, the*

1        *Comptroller General of the United States shall*  
2        *evaluate the effectiveness of the veterans' business*  
3        *outreach center program, and submit to Congress*  
4        *a report on the results of that evaluation.*

5            (B) *CONTENTS.—The report submitted*  
6        *under subparagraph (A) shall include—*

7                    (i) *an assessment of—*

8                            (I) *the use of amounts made*  
9                            *available to carry out the veterans'*  
10                          *business outreach center program;*

11                          (II) *the effectiveness of the services*  
12                          *provided by each entity receiving fi-*  
13                          *nancial assistance under the veterans'*  
14                          *business outreach center program;*

15                          (III) *whether the services de-*  
16                          *scribed in subclause (II) are duplica-*  
17                          *tive of services provided by other vet-*  
18                          *erans service organizations, programs*  
19                          *of the Small Business Administration,*  
20                          *or programs of another Federal depart-*  
21                          *ment or agency and, if so, rec-*  
22                          *ommendations regarding how to allevi-*  
23                          *ate the duplication of the services;*

24                          (IV) *whether there are areas of the*  
25                          *United States in which there are not*

adequate entrepreneurial services for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and, if so, whether there is a veterans' business outreach center established under the veterans' business outreach center program providing services to that area; and

(V) whether there is a correlation between the proximity of a veterans' business outreach center to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and the rate of the use of the services of the veterans' business outreach center; and

(ii) recommendations, if any, for improving the veterans' business outreach center program.

**SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND  
ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS.**

(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section—

(1) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

1           (2) the term “individual eligible for a veteran  
2       entrepreneurial development program” means—

3                   (A) a covered individual, as defined in sec-  
4       tion 32(d)(1) of the Small Business Act, as  
5       amended by section 2;

6                   (B) a covered individual, as defined in sec-  
7       tion 32(e)(1) of the Small Business Act, as  
8       amended by section 2;

9                   (C) a service-disabled veteran, as defined in  
10      section 3(q)(1) of the Small Business Act (15  
11      U.S.C. 632(q)(1)); and

12                  (D) an individual who qualifies to be the  
13      owner of a small business concern owned and  
14      controlled by veterans, as defined in section  
15      32(g)(1)(C) of the Small Business Act, as  
16      amended by section 2;

17           (3) the term “one-stop resource” means the one-  
18      stop online resource established under subsection  
19      (c)(1); and

20           (4) the term “small business concern” has the  
21      meaning given that term under section 3 of the Small  
22      Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

23      (b) VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS.—Not later  
24      than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
25      Administrator shall establish guidelines to improve the net-

1 *work of peer-to-peer counseling and mentoring for individ-*  
 2 *uals eligible for a veteran entrepreneurial development pro-*  
 3 *gram relating to the business development and entrepre-*  
 4 *neurial programs of the Administration.*

5 *(c) ONE-STOP ONLINE RESOURCE.—*

6 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-*  
 7 *tablish an online mechanism that serves as a one-stop*  
 8 *online resource for veterans regarding all of the entre-*  
 9 *preneurial development programs of the Administra-*  
 10 *tion.*

11 *(2) CONTENTS.—The one-stop resource shall in-*  
 12 *clude descriptions of each entrepreneurial program of*  
 13 *the Administration (which shall include the programs*  
 14 *described in paragraph (3)), including—*

15 *(A) target client descriptions for each pro-*  
 16 *gram;*

17 *(B) contact information for information on*  
 18 *or assistance regarding each program from lo-*  
 19 *cally, State-wide, and nationally available*  
 20 *sources;*

21 *(C) a detailed description of the services*  
 22 *available under each program;*

23 *(D) a description of any costs associated*  
 24 *with the services under each program;*

1           (E) an outline of program curriculums if  
2           training seminars or courses are offered; and

3           (F) other resource information that the Ad-  
4           ministrators determine appropriate and nec-  
5           essary for veteran entrepreneurs and veterans  
6           who own small business concerns, in order to en-  
7           sure the one-stop online resource provides infor-  
8           mation and resources necessary for a veteran be-  
9           ginning to develop a small business concern.

10          (3) *PROGRAMS.*—The programs identified and  
11          described under the one-stop resource shall include—

12           (A) the small business development center  
13           program under section 21 of the Small Business  
14           Act (15 U.S.C. 648);

15           (B) the women’s business center program  
16           under section 29 of the Small Business Act (15  
17           U.S.C. 656);

18           (C) the programs of the Office of Entrepre-  
19           neurship Education of the Administration;

20           (D) the Boots to Business program under  
21           section 32(d) of the Small Business Act, as  
22           amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

23           (E) the veterans’ business outreach center  
24           program under section 32(e) of the Small Busi-  
25           ness Act, as amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

1           (F) the Service Corps of Retired Executives  
 2           program authorized by section 8(b)(1) of the  
 3           Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)); and

4           (G) any other program of the Administra-  
 5           tion determined appropriate by the Adminis-  
 6           trator.

7   **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY**  
 8           **TASK FORCE.**

9           Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
 10   657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

11           “(4) *REPORT*.—Not less frequently than once  
 12           each year, the Administrator shall submit to Congress  
 13           a report—

14           “(A) discussing the appointments made to  
 15           and activities of the task force; and

16           “(B) identifying and outlining a plan for  
 17           outreach and promotion of all the programs au-  
 18           thorized under the Veterans Small Business De-  
 19           velopment Act of 2015, or an amendment made  
 20           by that Act.”.

21   **SEC. 5. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING.**

22           Section 8(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
 23   637(b)) is amended—

24           (1) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” at the  
 25           end;

1           (2) *in paragraph (17), by striking the period at*  
2           *the end and inserting “; and”; and*

3           (3) *by adding at the end the following:*

4           “(18) *to make a grant to, or enter into a cooper-*  
5           *ative agreement with, a nonprofit entity to operate an*  
6           *educational training program to provide assistance to*  
7           *small business concerns owned and controlled by vet-*  
8           *erans regarding how to increase the likelihood of*  
9           *being awarded contracts with the Federal Govern-*  
10          *ment—*

11           “(A) *which shall be made to or entered into*  
12           *with a nonprofit entity that has a track record*  
13           *of successfully providing educational and job*  
14           *training services to targeted veterans populations*  
15           *in diverse locations;*

16           “(B) *under which the nonprofit entity shall*  
17           *be required to match any Federal funds received*  
18           *for the program with State, local, or private sec-*  
19           *tor funds; and*

20           “(C) *under which the nonprofit entity shall*  
21           *use a diverse group of professional service ex-*  
22           *perts, such as Federal, State, and local con-*  
23           *tracting experts and private sector industry ex-*  
24           *perts with first-hand experience in Federal Gov-*  
25           *ernment contracting, to provide instruction to*

- 1           *small business concerns owned and controlled by*
- 2           *veterans.”.*

**Calendar No. 225**

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session

**S. 1866**

**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.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Reported with an amendment