

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5193

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2018

Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. BLUM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

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

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Entrepreneur-  
5 ship Training Act of 2018”.

**6 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7       It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of De-  
8 fense should coordinate with the Administrator of the  
9 Small Business Administration to include relevant aspects

1 of veterans assistance programs of the Small Business Ad-  
2 ministration in the Transition Assistance Program estab-  
3 lished under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

4 **SEC. 3. BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**

5 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
6 657b) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-  
8 section (g); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
10 lowing new subsection:

11 “(f) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

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

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

14 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces,  
15 including the National Guard or Reserves;

16 “(ii) an individual who is participating  
17 in the Transition Assistance Program es-  
18 tablished under section 1144 of title 10,  
19 United States Code;

20 “(iii) an individual who—

21 “(I) served on active duty in any  
22 branch of the Armed Forces, includ-  
23 ing the National Guard or Reserves;  
24 and

1                 “(II) was discharged or released  
2                          from such service under conditions  
3                          other than dishonorable; and

4                 “(iv) a spouse or dependent of an in-  
5                          dividual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii);  
6                          and

7                 “(B) the term ‘Vet Center’ has the mean-  
8                          ing given in section 1712A(h) of title 38,  
9                          United States Code.

10                 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator  
11                          shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Boots  
12                          to Business Program’ to provide entrepreneurship  
13                          training to covered individuals.

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

16                 “(A) provide assistance and in-depth train-  
17                          ing to covered individuals interested in business  
18                          ownership; and

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

25                 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

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

3                     “(i) a presentation providing exposure  
4 to the considerations involved in self-em-  
5 ployment and ownership of a small busi-  
6 ness concern;

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 ownership of a small business concern;

12                     “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-  
13 tion component providing an introduction  
14 to the foundations of self employment and  
15 ownership of a small business concern; 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 course curricula for  
24 the Boots to Business Program; and

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

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

9                     “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
10 shall—

11                         “(I) ensure that Veteran Busi-  
12 ness Outreach Centers regularly par-  
13 ticipate, 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 Administrator may make  
22 grants to Veteran Business Outreach Cen-  
23 ters, other resource partners, or other enti-  
24 ties to carry out components of the Boots  
25 to Business Program.

1                 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF  
2 DEFENSE.—The Administrator shall make  
3 available to the Secretary of Defense informa-  
4 tion regarding the Boots to Business Program,  
5 including all course materials created for the  
6 Boots to Business Program, for inclusion on  
7 the website of the Department of Defense relat-  
8 ing to the Transition Assistance Program, in  
9 the Transition Assistance Program manual, and  
10 in other relevant materials available for dis-  
11 tribution from the Secretary of Defense.

12                 “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-  
13 FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of  
14 Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make  
15 available outreach materials regarding the  
16 Boots to Business Program for distribution and  
17 display at local facilities of the Department of  
18 Veterans Affairs which shall, at a minimum—

19                         “(i) describe the Boots to Business  
20 Program and the services provided; and  
21                         “(ii) include eligibility requirements  
22 for participating in the Boots to Business  
23 Program.

24                 “(5) REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the  
25 Administration shall submit to the Committee on

1       Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate  
2       and the Committee on Small Business of the House  
3       of Representatives an annual report regarding the  
4       awarding of grants to entities under paragraph  
5       (4)(C).

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

16           “(A) the number of program participants  
17       using each component of the Boots to Business  
18       Program;

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

21           “(C) to the extent possible—

22           “(i) the demographics of program par-  
23       ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
24       tionship to military, military occupational

1 specialty, and years of service of program  
2 participants;

3 “(ii) the number of small business  
4 concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
5 ance under the Boots to Business Pro-  
6 gram;

7 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
8 ness concerns receiving assistance under  
9 the Boots to Business Program;

10 “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
11 assistance under the Boots to Business  
12 Program;

13 “(v) the number of referrals to other  
14 resources and programs of the Administra-  
15 tion;

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

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

23 “(viii) results of participant satisfac-  
24 tion surveys, including a summary of any

1           comments received from program partici-  
2           pants;

3           “(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
4           the Boots to Business Program in each region  
5           of the Administration during the most recent  
6           fiscal year;

7           “(E) an assessment of additional perform-  
8           ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-  
9           ness Program, as identified by the Adminis-  
10          trator;

11          “(F) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
12          trator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-  
13          ness Program, which may include expansion of  
14          the types of individuals who are covered individ-  
15          uals;

16          “(G) an explanation of how the Boots to  
17          Business Program has been integrated with  
18          other transition programs and related resources  
19          of the Administration and other Federal agen-  
20          cies; and

21          “(H) any additional information the Ad-  
22          ministrator determines necessary.”.

