

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3537

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and  
Entrepreneurship

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Entrepreneur-  
3 ship Training Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**

5 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
6 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
7 subsection:

8 “(h) **BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**—

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

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

13 “(B) an individual who is participating in  
14 the Transition Assistance Program established  
15 under section 1144 of title 10, United States  
16 Code;

17 “(C) an individual who—

18 “(i) served on active duty in any  
19 branch of the Armed Forces, including the  
20 National Guard or Reserves; and

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

24 “(D) a spouse or dependent of an indi-  
25 vidual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or  
26 (C).

1           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Beginning on the first  
2           October 1 after the enactment of this subsection and  
3           for the subsequent 4 fiscal years, the Administrator  
4           shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Boots  
5           to Business Program’ to provide entrepreneurship  
6           training to covered individuals.

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

9                   “(A) provide assistance and in-depth train-  
10                   ing to covered individuals interested in business  
11                   ownership; and

12                   “(B) provide covered individuals with the  
13                   tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify  
14                   a business opportunity, draft a business plan,  
15                   identify sources of capital, connect with local  
16                   resources for small business concerns, and start  
17                   up a small business concern.

18           “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

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

21                           “(i) a presentation providing exposure  
22                           to the considerations involved in self-em-  
23                           ployment and ownership of a small busi-  
24                           ness concern;

1           “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-  
2           cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-  
3           ship, the language of business, and the  
4           considerations involved in self-employment  
5           and ownership of a small business concern;

6           “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-  
7           tion component providing an introduction  
8           to the foundations of self employment and  
9           ownership of a small business concern; and

10           “(iv) in-depth training delivered  
11           through online instruction, including an  
12           online course that leads to the creation of  
13           a business plan.

14           “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-  
15           trator may—

16           “(i) collaborate with public and pri-  
17           vate entities to develop course curricula for  
18           the Boots to Business Program; and

19           “(ii) modify program components in  
20           coordination with entities participating in a  
21           Warriors in Transition program, as defined  
22           in section 738(e) of the National Defense  
23           Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013  
24           (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

25           “(C) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
2 shall—

3                   “(I) ensure that Veteran Busi-  
4                   ness Outreach Centers regularly par-  
5                   ticipate, on a nationwide basis, in the  
6                   Boots to Business Program; and

7                   “(II) to the maximum extent  
8                   practicable, use a variety of other re-  
9                   source partners and entities in admin-  
10                  istering the Boots to Business Pro-  
11                  gram.

12                 “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying  
13                 out clause (i), the Administrator may make  
14                 grants to Veteran Business Outreach Cen-  
15                 ters, other resource partners, or other enti-  
16                 ties to carry out components of the Boots  
17                 to Business Program.

18                 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF  
19                 DEFENSE.—The Administrator shall make  
20                 available to the Secretary of Defense informa-  
21                 tion regarding the Boots to Business Program,  
22                 including all course materials and outreach ma-  
23                 terials related to the Boots to Business Pro-  
24                 gram, for inclusion on the website of the De-  
25                 partment of Defense relating to the Transition

1 Assistance Program, in the Transition Assist-  
2 ance Program manual, and in other relevant  
3 materials available for distribution from the  
4 Secretary of Defense.

5 “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-  
6 FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of  
7 Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make  
8 available for distribution and display at local fa-  
9 cilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
10 outreach materials regarding the Boots to Busi-  
11 ness Program which shall, at a minimum—

12 “(i) describe the Boots to Business  
13 Program and the services provided; and

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

17 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
18 the date of the enactment of this subsection and  
19 every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit  
20 to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-  
21 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small  
22 Business of the House of Representatives a report  
23 on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to  
24 Business Program, which may be included as part of

1 another report submitted to such Committees by the  
2 Administrator, and which shall include—

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

5 “(B) the total cost of the Boots to Busi-  
6 ness Program;

7 “(C) the number of program participants  
8 using each component of the Boots to Business  
9 Program;

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

12 “(E) to the extent possible—

13 “(i) the demographics of program par-  
14 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
15 tionship to military, military occupational  
16 specialty, and years of service of program  
17 participants;

18 “(ii) the number of small business  
19 concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
20 ance under the Boots to Business Pro-  
21 gram;

22 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
23 ness concerns receiving assistance under  
24 the Boots to Business Program;

1                   “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
2                   assistance under the Boots to Business  
3                   Program;

4                   “(v) the number of referrals to other  
5                   resources and programs of the Administra-  
6                   tion;

7                   “(vi) the number of program partici-  
8                   pants receiving financial assistance under  
9                   loan programs of the Administration;

10                  “(vii) the type and dollar amount of  
11                  financial assistance received by program  
12                  participants under any loan program of the  
13                  Administration; and

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

18                  “(F) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
19                  the Boots to Business Program in each region  
20                  of the Administration during the most recent  
21                  fiscal year;

22                  “(G) an assessment of additional perform-  
23                  ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-  
24                  ness Program, as identified by the Adminis-  
25                  trator;



