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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCHNEIDER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

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.”.