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Veterans Small Business Ownership Improvements Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: Jul 27, 2015

Current Status: By Senator Vitter from Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship filed written report under a

Latest Action: By Senator Vitter from Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship filed written report under authority of the order of the Senate of 12/10/2016. Report No. 114-410. (Dec 20, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1866>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]

Party: Republican • **State:** LA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 27, 2015
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 28, 2015
Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]	R · NV		Dec 8, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 15, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Veterans Small Business Ownership Improvements Act of 2015

(Sec. 2) This bill amends the Small Business Act to establish the Boots to Business Program under which the Small Business Administration (SBA) shall provide entrepreneurship training to:

- members of the Armed Forces,
- individuals participating in the Transition Assistance Program (Department of Defense),
- individuals who served on active duty and who were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, and
- their spouses or dependents.

The SBA shall also

- establish a Women Veterans Business Training Program to provide specific training for female members of the Armed Forces, veterans, or their spouses or dependents who are interested in small business careers; and
- compile and disseminate information on resources available to women veterans for business training.

The SBA shall in addition establish a Business Training Program for Service Disabled Veterans to provide specific training for service-disabled veterans interested in small business careers.

The SBA may make grants to veterans' business outreach centers and other entities, including other resource partners, to carry out components of these three Programs.

The SBA shall:

- establish a veterans' business outreach center program to provide financial assistance to educational institutions, veterans' nonprofit community-based organizations, and federal, state, and local departments and agencies to conduct renewable five-year projects for the benefit of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans; and
- designate at least one individual in each district office as a veterans business development officer to coordinate activities of the district office with recipient entities.

Financial assistance may be at least \$100,000 for each fiscal year in the form of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, subject to requirements for specified project percentages of non-federal contributions.

An assisted entity shall establish or operate a veterans' business outreach center to provide veterans, service-disabled veterans, and reservists, as well as their spouses, and the spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces with:

- financial, management, and marketing advice and training; and
- technical assistance and training for obtaining federal procurement opportunities.

An assisted entity shall also enter into an affiliation agreement with a small business development center to carry out activities under this Act.

A veterans' business outreach center may, with prior SBA approval, contract with a federal department or agency to provide specific assistance to veterans, service-disabled veterans, reservists, or the spouses of members of the Armed Forces on active duty.

The SBA may discontinue financial assistance to an entity at any time for poor performance.

The SBA shall designate at least one individual in each SBA district office as a veterans business development officer to communicate and coordinate district office activities with entities receiving financial assistance under this Act.

The SBA shall establish the Veterans Business Owners Initiative Pilot Program to provide grants to nonprofit entities to carry out peer support groups that provide small business career training to:

- members of the Armed Forces,
- individuals participating in the Transition Assistance Program (Department of Defense),
- Reservists,
- veterans, and
- their spouses or dependents.

The SBA shall establish an online mechanism to assist veterans' assistance providers carry out their activities.

FY2016-FY2020 appropriations are authorized for programs under this Act.

(Sec. 3) The SBA shall establish: (1) guidelines to improve the network of peer-to-peer counseling for individuals eligible for a veterans' entrepreneurial development program, and (2) an online mechanism that serves as a one-stop online resource for veterans regarding SBA entrepreneurial development programs.

(Sec. 4) The SBA shall report to Congress at least once a year regarding: (1) appointments and activities of the interagency veterans small business task force, and (2) outreach and promotion of the programs authorized by this Act.

(Sec. 5) The SBA's duties are expanded to include making grants to, or entering into cooperative agreements with, nonprofit entities to operate federal contracting training programs for veteran-owned small businesses.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 20, 2016:** By Senator Vitter from Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship filed written report under authority of the order of the Senate of 12/10/2016. Report No. 114-410.
- **Sep 15, 2015:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Reported by Senator Vitter with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Sep 15, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 225.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.