

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-

70

OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS

Page 381, after line 9, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 861. VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that the Secretary of Defense should coordinate with
4 the Administrator of the Small Business Administration
5 to include relevant aspects of veterans assistance pro-
6 grams of the Small Business Administration in the Tran-
7 sition Assistance Program established under section 1144
8 of title 10, United States Code.

9 (b) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—Section 32 of
10 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
12 section (g); and

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
14 lowing new subsection:

15 “(f) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

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

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

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

1 “(ii) an individual who is participating
2 in the Transition Assistance Program es-
3 tablished under section 1144 of title 10,
4 United States Code;

5 “(iii) an individual who—

6 “(I) served on active duty in any
7 branch of the Armed Forces, includ-
8 ing the National Guard or Reserves;
9 and

10 “(II) was discharged or released
11 from such service under conditions
12 other than dishonorable; and

13 “(iv) a spouse or dependent of an in-
14 dividual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii);
15 and

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

19 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
20 shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Boots
21 to Business Program’ to provide entrepreneurship
22 training to covered individuals.

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

1 “(A) provide assistance and in-depth train-
2 ing to covered individuals interested in business
3 ownership; and

4 “(B) provide covered individuals with the
5 tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify
6 a business opportunity, draft a business plan,
7 identify sources of capital, connect with local
8 resources for small business concerns, and
9 launch a small business concern.

10 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

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

13 “(i) a presentation providing exposure
14 to the considerations involved in self-em-
15 ployment and ownership of a small busi-
16 ness concern;

17 “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-
18 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
19 ship, the language of business, and the
20 considerations involved in self-employment
21 and ownership of a small business concern;

22 “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-
23 tion component providing an introduction
24 to the foundations of self employment and
25 ownership of a small business concern; and

1 “(iv) in-depth training delivered
2 through online instruction, including an
3 online course that leads to the creation of
4 a business plan.

5 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
6 trator may—

7 “(i) collaborate with public and pri-
8 vate entities to develop course curricula for
9 the Boots to Business Program; and

10 “(ii) modify program components in
11 coordination with entities participating in a
12 Warriors in Transition program, as defined
13 in section 738(e) of the National Defense
14 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013
15 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

16 “(C) UTILIZATION OF RESOURCE PART-
17 NERS.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
19 shall—

20 “(I) ensure that Veteran Busi-
21 ness Outreach Centers regularly par-
22 ticipate, on a nationwide basis, in the
23 Boots to Business Program; and

24 “(II) to the maximum extent
25 practicable, use a variety of other re-

1 source partners and entities in admin-
2 istering the Boots to Business Pro-
3 gram.

4 “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying
5 out clause (i), the Administrator may make
6 grants to Veteran Business Outreach Cen-
7 ters, other resource partners, or other enti-
8 ties to carry out components of the Boots
9 to Business Program.

10 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF
11 DEFENSE.—The Administrator shall make
12 available to the Secretary of Defense informa-
13 tion regarding the Boots to Business Program,
14 including all course materials created for the
15 Boots to Business Program, for inclusion on
16 the website of the Department of Defense relat-
17 ing to the Transition Assistance Program, in
18 the Transition Assistance Program manual, and
19 in other relevant materials available for dis-
20 tribution from the Secretary of Defense.

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

1 display at local facilities of the Department of
2 Veterans Affairs which shall, at a minimum—

3 “(i) describe the Boots to Business
4 Program and the services provided; and

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

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

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

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

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

6 “(C) to the extent possible—

7 “(i) the demographics of program par-
8 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
9 tionship to military, military occupational
10 specialty, and years of service of program
11 participants;

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

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

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

22 “(v) the number of referrals to other
23 resources and programs of the Administra-
24 tion;

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

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

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

12 “(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
13 the Boots to Business Program in each region
14 of the Administration during the most recent
15 fiscal year;

16 “(E) an assessment of additional perform-
17 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-
18 ness Program, as identified by the Adminis-
19 trator;

20 “(F) any recommendations of the Adminis-
21 trator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-
22 ness Program, which may include expansion of
23 the types of individuals who are covered individ-
24 uals;

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

6 “(H) any additional information the Ad-
7 ministrator determines necessary.”.

