

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-

36

OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 8 ____ . BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**

2 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
3 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

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

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

9 “(B) an individual who is participating in
10 the Transition Assistance Program established
11 under section 1144 of title 10, United States
12 Code;

13 “(C) an individual who—

14 “(i) served on active duty in any
15 branch of the Armed Forces, including the
16 National Guard or Reserves; and

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

4 “(D) a spouse or dependent of an indi-
5 vidual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or
6 (C).

7 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—During the period be-
8 ginning on the date of enactment of this subsection
9 and ending on September 30, 2028, the Adminis-
10 trator shall carry out a program to be known as the
11 ‘Boots to Business Program’ to provide entrepre-
12 neurship training to covered individuals.

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

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

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

24 “(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) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS AND
8 DISTRICT OFFICES.—

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 district offices of the
17 Administration and a variety of other
18 resource partners and entities in ad-
19 ministering the Boots to Business
20 Program.

21 “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying
22 out clause (i), the Administrator may make
23 grants, subject to the availability of appro-
24 priations in advance, to Veteran Business
25 Outreach Centers, other resource partners,

1 or other entities to carry out components
2 of the Boots to Business Program.

3 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF
4 DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—
5 The Administrator shall make available to the
6 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
7 Labor information regarding the Boots to Busi-
8 ness Program, including all course materials
9 and outreach materials related to the Boots to
10 Business Program, for inclusion on the websites
11 of the Department of Defense and the Depart-
12 ment of Labor relating to the Transition Assist-
13 ance Program, in the Transition Assistance
14 Program manual, and in other relevant mate-
15 rials available for distribution from the Sec-
16 retary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor.

17 “(E) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF
18 VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In consultation with the
19 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Adminis-
20 trator shall make available for distribution and
21 display on the website of the Department of
22 Veterans Affairs and at local facilities of the
23 Department of Veterans Affairs outreach mate-
24 rials regarding the Boots to Business Program,
25 which shall, at a minimum—

1 “(i) describe the Boots to Business
2 Program and the services provided; and

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

6 “(F) AVAILABILITY TO OTHER PARTICI-
7 PATING AGENCIES.—The Administrator shall
8 ensure information regarding the Boots to
9 Business program, including all course mate-
10 rials and outreach materials related to the
11 Boots to Business Program, is made available
12 to other participating agencies in the Transition
13 Assistance Program and upon request of other
14 agencies.

15 “(5) COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURES.—
16 The Administration shall use relevant competitive
17 bidding procedures with respect to any contract or
18 cooperative agreement executed by the Administra-
19 tion under the Boots to Business Program.

20 “(6) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF FUNDING OP-
21 PORTUNITY.—Not later than 30 days before the
22 deadline for submitting applications for any funding
23 opportunity under the Boots to Business Program,
24 the Administration shall publish a notice of the
25 funding opportunity.

1 “(7) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
2 the date of enactment of this subsection, and not
3 less frequently than annually thereafter, the Admin-
4 istrator shall submit to the Committee on Small
5 Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and
6 the Committee on Small Business of the House of
7 Representatives a report on the performance and ef-
8 fectiveness of the Boots to Business Program,
9 which—

10 “(A) may be included as part of another
11 report submitted to such committees by the Ad-
12 ministrator related to the Office of Veterans
13 Business Development; and

14 “(B) shall summarize available information
15 relating to—

16 “(i) grants awarded under paragraph
17 (4)(C);

18 “(ii) the total cost of the Boots to
19 Business Program;

20 “(iii) the number of program partici-
21 pants using each component of the Boots
22 to Business Program;

23 “(iv) the completion rates for each
24 component of the Boots to Business Pro-
25 gram;

1 “(v) to the extent possible—

2 “(I) the demographics of pro-
3 gram participants, to include gender,
4 age, race, ethnicity, and relationship
5 to military;

6 “(II) the number of program
7 participants that connect with a dis-
8 trict office of the Administration, a
9 Veteran Business Outreach Center, or
10 another resource partner of the Ad-
11 ministration;

12 “(III) the number of program
13 participants that start a small busi-
14 ness concern;

15 “(IV) the results of the Boots to
16 Business and Boots to Business
17 Reboot course quality surveys con-
18 ducted by the Office of Veterans Busi-
19 ness Development before and after at-
20 tending each of those courses, includ-
21 ing a summary of any comments re-
22 ceived from program participants;

23 “(V) the results of the Boots to
24 Business Program outcome surveys
25 conducted by the Office of Veterans

1 Business Development, including a
2 summary of any comments received
3 from program participants; and

4 “(VI) the results of other ger-
5 mane participant satisfaction surveys;

6 “(C) an evaluation of the overall effective-
7 ness of the Boots to Business Program based
8 on each geographic region covered by the Ad-
9 ministration during the most recent fiscal year;

10 “(D) an assessment of additional perform-
11 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-
12 ness Program, as identified by the Adminis-
13 trator;

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

19 “(F) an explanation of how the Boots to
20 Business Program has been integrated with
21 other transition programs and related resources
22 of the Administration and other Federal agen-
23 cies; and

1 “(G) any additional information the Ad-
2 ministrators determine necessary.”.

