

TITLE VII--SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS

SEC. 701. <<NOTE: 15 USC 631 note.>> PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are--

- (1) to foster enhanced entrepreneurship among eligible veterans by providing increased opportunities;
- (2) to vigorously promote the legitimate interests of small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans; and
- (3) to ensure that those concerns receive fair consideration in purchases made by the Federal Government.

SEC. 702. <<NOTE: 15 USC 631 note.>> DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) Eligible veteran.--The term ``eligible veteran'' means a disabled veteran (as defined in section 4211(3) of title 38, United States Code).

(2) Small business concern owned and controlled by eligible veterans.--The term ``small business concern owned and controlled by eligible veterans'' means a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act)--

(A) that is at least 51 percent owned by 1 or more eligible veterans, or in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by 1 or more eligible veterans; and

(B) whose management and daily business operations are controlled by eligible veterans.

SEC. 703. REPORT <<NOTE: 15 USC 631 note.>> BY SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) Study and Report.--

(1) In general.--Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall conduct a comprehensive study and submit to the Committees a final report containing findings and recommendations of the Administrator on--

(A) the needs of small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans;

(B) the availability and utilization of Administration programs by small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans;

(C) the percentage, and dollar value, of Federal contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans in the preceding 5 fiscal years; and

(D) methods to improve Administration and other agency programs to serve the needs of small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans.

(2) Contents.--The report under paragraph (1) shall include recommendations to Congress concerning the need for legislation and recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget,

relevant offices within the Administration, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) Conduct of Study.--In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator--

(1) may conduct surveys of small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans and service disabled veterans, including those who have sought financial assistance or other services from the Administration;

(2) shall consult with the appropriate committees of Congress, relevant groups and organizations in the nonprofit sector, and Federal or State government agencies; and

(3) shall have access to any information within other Federal agencies that pertains to such veterans and their small businesses, unless such access is specifically prohibited by law.

SEC. 704. <<NOTE: 15 USC 631 note.>> INFORMATION COLLECTION.

After the date of issuance of the report required by section 703(a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training and the Administrator, engage in efforts each fiscal year to identify small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans in the United States. The Secretary shall inform each small business concern identified under this section that information on Federal procurement is available from the Administrator.

SEC. 705. STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS REPORT.

Section 303(b) of the Small Business Economic Policy Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 631b(b)) is amended by striking ``and female-owned businesses'' and inserting ``, female-owned, and veteran-owned businesses''.

SEC. 706. LOANS TO VETERANS.

Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

``(8) The Administration may make loans under this subsection to small business concerns owned and controlled by disabled veterans (as defined in section 4211(3) of title 38, United States Code).''.

SEC. 707. ENTREPRENEURIAL <<NOTE: 15 USC 631 note.>> TRAINING, COUNSELING, AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE.

The Administrator shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that small business concerns owned and controlled by eligible veterans have access to programs established under the Small Business Act that provide entrepreneurial training, business development assistance, counseling, and management assistance to small business concerns, including, among others, the Small Business Development Center program and the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) program.

SEC. 708. GRANTS FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

Section 8(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)) is amended--

- (1) in paragraph (15), by striking ``and'' at the end;
- (2) in the first paragraph designated as paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end and inserting ``; and''; and
- (3) by striking the second paragraph designated as paragraph (16) and inserting the following:

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``(17) to make grants to, and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with, educational institutions, private businesses, veterans' nonprofit community-based organizations, and Federal, State, and local departments and agencies for the establishment and implementation of outreach programs for disabled veterans (as defined in section 4211(3) of title 38, United States Code).''.

SEC. 709. OUTREACH <<NOTE: 15 USC 631 note.>> FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS.

The Administrator, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, shall develop and implement a program of comprehensive outreach to assist eligible veterans, which program shall include business training and management assistance, employment and relocation counseling, and dissemination of information on veterans' benefits and veterans' entitlements.

Approved December 2, 1997.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY--S. 1139 (H.R. 2261):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 105-246 accompanying H.R. 2261 (Comm. on Small Business).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105-62 (Comm. on Small Business).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 143 (1997):

Sept. 9, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 29, considered and passed House, amended, in lieu of H.R. 2261.

Oct. 31, Senate concurred in House amendment with an amendment.

Nov. 9, House concurred in Senate amendment.