
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1678 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ROZZI, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, MACKENZIE, BISHOP,
MILLARD, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, DRISCOLL, ACOSTA, SANTARSIERO,
GIBBONS, O'BRIEN, D. COSTA, SCHREIBER, HELM, RAPP, READSHAW,
SCHWEYER AND McNEILL, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Veteran's Entrepreneurial Training and Support
2 Program; imposing powers and duties on the Department of
3 Community and Economic Development; and making an
4 appropriation.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Veterans
9 Entrepreneurial Training and Support Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
15 Development of the Commonwealth.

16 "Secretary." The Secretary of Community and Economic
17 Development of the Commonwealth.

1 "Service-disabled veteran." A veteran who possesses either a
2 disability rating letter issued by the United States Department
3 of Veterans Affairs or a disability determination from the
4 United States Department of Defense.

5 "Service-disabled veteran-owned small business." A small
6 business owned and controlled by a service-disabled veteran or
7 service-disabled veterans or a surviving spouse or permanent
8 caregiver of a service-disabled veteran.

9 "Small business." A company that is engaged in a for-profit
10 enterprise and employs no more than 100 individuals.

11 "Veteran." A person who served on active duty in the United
12 States Armed Forces, including any of the following:

13 (1) A reservist or member of the National Guard who was
14 discharged or released from the service under honorable
15 conditions.

16 (2) A reservist or member of the National Guard who
17 completed an initial term of enlistment or qualifying period
18 of service.

19 (3) A reservist or member of the National Guard who was
20 disabled in the line of duty during training.

21 "Veteran-owned small business." A small business owned and
22 controlled by a veteran or veterans. The term includes a
23 service-disabled veteran-owned small business.

24 Section 3. Veterans Entrepreneurial Training and Support
25 Program.

26 The department, in consultation with the Department of
27 Military and Veterans Affairs, shall establish the Veterans
28 Entrepreneurial Training and Support Program within the
29 department to provide small business and entrepreneurial focused
30 services to veterans and reservists and the spouses and children

1 of veterans and reservists for purposes of assisting those
2 individuals in obtaining the skills necessary to create, manage
3 and operate a small business.

4 Section 4. Veterans business centers.

5 (a) Establishment.--In developing the Veterans
6 Entrepreneurial Training and Support Program under section 3,
7 the department shall create four veterans business centers
8 throughout this Commonwealth. The location of the veterans
9 business centers shall be at the discretion of the secretary,
10 provided that veterans from all areas of this Commonwealth have
11 reasonable access to a center.

12 (b) Services.--Each veterans business center established
13 under this section shall, at a minimum, provide the following
14 services:

15 (1) Financial advice, including training and counseling
16 on applying for and securing business credit and investment
17 capital, preparing and presenting financial statements and
18 managing cash flow and other operations of a small business
19 concern.

20 (2) Information seminars on securing loans, business
21 plan development, marketing, accounting, budgeting and
22 merchandising.

23 (3) Specialized programs to assist veteran-owned small
24 businesses to secure capital and repair damaged credit.

25 (4) One-on-one counseling to improve financial
26 presentation of the businesses to lenders.

27 (5) Facilitating the access of veteran-owned businesses
28 to both traditional and nontraditional financing sources.

29 (6) Counseling to small business owners who are members
30 of reserve components to prepare their businesses for periods

1 when owners are deployed.

2 (7) Programs to assist unemployed veterans to become
3 entrepreneurs.

4 (8) Technical assistance with respect to the
5 Commonwealth procurement process.

6 (9) Management advice, including training and counseling
7 on the planning, organization, staffing, direction and
8 control of each major activity and function of a small
9 business concern.

10 (10) Marketing advice, including training in marketing,
11 preparing and executing marketing plans, developing pricing
12 strategies, locating contracting opportunities, negotiating
13 contracts and using public relations and advertising.

14 Section 5. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect in 60 days.