
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 155 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, FONTANA, HUGHES, BLAKE, SMITH,
WILEY, COSTA, VULAKOVICH, TARTAGLIONE AND FARNESE,
JANUARY 27, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
JANUARY 27, 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.

18 "Service-disabled veteran." A veteran who possesses either a

1 disability rating letter issued by the United States Department
2 of Veterans Affairs or a disability determination from the
3 United States Department of Defense.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 individuals in obtaining the skills necessary to create, manage
2 and operate a small business.

3 Section 4. Veterans business centers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 Section 5. Appropriation.

14 The sum of \$2,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund
15 to the Department of Community and Economic Development for the
16 period of July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, for the purpose of
17 carrying out the department's responsibilities under this act.

18 Section 6. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 60 days.