

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To establish the Veterans Business Owners Initiative Pilot Program.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 1st Sess.**

**S. 1866**

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENTS intended to be proposed by Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN)

Viz:

1       On page 31, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:  
2

3       “(h) VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE  
4 PILOT PROGRAM.—

5               (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

6                       (A) the term “covered individual” means—

7                               (i) a member of the Armed Forces on  
8 active duty, as defined in section 101(d)(1)  
9 of title 10, United States Code;

10                               (ii) a member of the Armed Forces  
11 who is participating in the Transition As-

1 assistance Program of the Department of  
2 Defense;

3 (iii) a member of a reserve component  
4 of the Armed Forces named in section  
5 10101 of title 10, United States Code;

6 (iv) a veteran; and

7 (v) a spouse or dependent of an indi-  
8 vidual described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or  
9 (iv);

10 (B) the term “institution of higher edu-  
11 cation” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
12 tion 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
13 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

14 (C) the term “pilot program” means the  
15 Veterans Business Owners Initiative Pilot Pro-  
16 gram established under paragraph (2).

17 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days  
18 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
19 Administrator shall establish a pilot program, to be  
20 known as the Veterans Business Owners Initiative  
21 Pilot Program, to provide grants to nonprofit enti-  
22 ties to carry out peer support groups that provide  
23 training to covered individuals interested in explor-  
24 ing careers as owners of small business concerns.

1           (3) GOALS.—The goals of the pilot program  
2           are—

3                   (A) to facilitate training for covered indi-  
4                   viduals, staff, and mentors to develop the as-  
5                   sistance to be provided through peer support  
6                   groups under the pilot program, including edu-  
7                   cation, coaching, peer support, business men-  
8                   toring, and benefits counseling; and

9                   (B) to arrange for external assistance, in-  
10                  cluding micro-financing, for covered individuals.

11           (4) APPLICATION.—A nonprofit entity that de-  
12           sires a grant under the pilot program shall submit  
13           to the Administrator an application at such time, in  
14           such manner, and containing such information as  
15           the Administrator may require.

16           (5) PILOT PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—Activities  
17           carried out through a peer support group under the  
18           pilot program may include—

19                   (A) providing assistance to covered individ-  
20                   uals to identify their passions and skill sets  
21                   with respect to business, including coaching and  
22                   mentorship for covered individuals who suffer  
23                   from the consequences of being at war;

1 (B) providing exposure to covered individ-  
2 uals to the considerations involved in self-em-  
3 ployment and small business ownership;

4 (C) an instruction component that provides  
5 an introduction to the foundations of self-em-  
6 ployment and small business ownership; and

7 (D) in-depth training that leads to the cre-  
8 ation of a business plan.

9 (6) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator  
10 may—

11 (A) collaborate with public and private en-  
12 tities to develop a course initiative for peer sup-  
13 port groups carried out under the pilot pro-  
14 gram; and

15 (B) design the course curriculum to allow  
16 covered individuals to receive college credit or a  
17 certificate through an institution of higher edu-  
18 cation upon completion of all components of the  
19 curriculum.

20 On page 31, line 20, strike “(h)” and insert “(i)”.

21 On page 33, line 1, strike “(i)” and insert “(j)”.

22 On page 33, strike line 5.

1 On page 33, line 7, strike the period and insert “;  
2 and”.

3 On page 33, between lines 7 and 8, insert the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(3) such sums as may be necessary to carry  
6 out subsection (h).

7 On page 33, line 8, strike “(j)” and insert “(k)”.

8 On page 33, line 13, strike “(k)” and insert “(l)”.

9 On page 45, line 9, strike “(4).” and insert “(4).”

10 On page 45, between lines 9 and 10, insert the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(6) VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE  
13 PILOT PROGRAM.—For the Veterans Business Own-  
14 ers Initiative Pilot Program under subsection (h)—

15 “(A) the number of program participants  
16 using each component of the Veteran Business  
17 Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

18 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-  
19 nent of the Veteran Business Owners Initiative  
20 Pilot Program;

1 “(C) to the extent possible—

2 “(i) the demographics of program par-  
3 ticipants, including gender, age, race, rela-  
4 tionship to military, and years of service;

5 “(ii) the number of small business  
6 concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
7 ance under the Veteran Business Owners  
8 Initiative Pilot Program;

9 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
10 ness concerns receiving assistance under  
11 the Veteran Business Owners Initiative  
12 Pilot Program;

13 “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
14 assistance under the Veteran Business  
15 Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

16 “(v) the number of referrals to other  
17 resources and programs of the Administra-  
18 tion;

19 “(vi) the number of referrals from  
20 other resources and programs of the Ad-  
21 ministration and other Federal agencies;

22 “(vii) the number of program partici-  
23 pants receiving financial assistance under  
24 loan programs of the Administration;

1                   “(viii) the type and dollar amount of  
2                   financial assistance received by program  
3                   participants under loan programs of the  
4                   Administration; and

5                   “(ix) the results of participant satis-  
6                   faction surveys, including a summary of  
7                   any comments received from program par-  
8                   ticipants;

9                   “(D) an assessment of additional perform-  
10                  ance outcome measures for the Veteran Busi-  
11                  ness Owners Initiative Pilot Program, as identi-  
12                  fied by the Associate Administrator;

13                  “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
14                  trator for improvement of the Veteran Business  
15                  Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

16                  “(F) an explanation of how the Veteran  
17                  Business Owners Initiative Pilot Program has  
18                  been integrated with other transition programs  
19                  and related resources of the Administration and  
20                  other Federal agencies; and

21                  “(G) any additional information the Ad-  
22                  ministrators determine necessary.”.