

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2265 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, DEAN, KINSEY, KOTIK, MACKENZIE,
SCHLOSSBERG, HELM, GABLER, NELSON, DRISCOLL, READSHAW,
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LONGIETTI, GIBBONS, D. COSTA, SAYLOR, LEWIS, OBERLANDER,
GROVE, WATSON, PHILLIPS-HILL, BOBACK, ZIMMERMAN, KIM, REGAN,
GILLEN, BLOOM AND TALLMAN, JULY 19, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JULY 19, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions, further
3 providing for heroic service website and providing for
4 veterans and reservists entrepreneurial training and support;
5 and making editorial changes.

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

8 Section 1. The heading of Chapter 97 of Title 51 of the
9 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is renumbered to read:

10 CHAPTER [97] 130

11 HEROIC SERVICE WEBSITE

12 Section 2. Section 9701 of Title 51 is renumbered to read:

13 § [9701] 13001. Responsibilities.

14 * * *

15 Section 3. Title 51 is amended by adding a chapter to read:

16 CHAPTER 97

17 VETERANS AND RESERVISTS ENTREPRENEURIAL

1 TRAINING AND SUPPORT

2 Sec.

3 9701. Definitions.

4 9702. Program establishment.

5 9703. Program components and Department of Community and
6 Economic Development duties.

7 § 9701. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
9 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Program." The Veterans and Reservists Entrepreneurial
12 Training and Support Program.

13 "Reservist." A member of a United States Armed Forces
14 reserve component or National Guard.

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

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

19 "Veteran." An individual who served in the United States
20 Armed Forces, including a reserve component or the National
21 Guard, and who was discharged or released from service under
22 conditions other than dishonorable.

23 "Veteran-owned small business." A small business owned and
24 controlled by a veteran. The term shall include a small business
25 owned and controlled by a member of a United States Armed Forces
26 reserve component or National Guard.

27 § 9702. Program establishment.

28 The Department of Community and Economic Development, in
29 consultation with the department, shall establish the Veterans
30 and Reservists Entrepreneurial Training and Support Program

1 within the Department of Community and Economic Development to
2 provide small business and entrepreneurial-focused services to
3 veterans, reservists and the dependents of veterans and
4 reservists for purposes of assisting the individuals in
5 obtaining the skills necessary to create, manage and operate a
6 small business.

7 § 9703. Program components and Department of Community and
8 Economic Development duties.

9 (a) Establishment.--In developing the program, the
10 Department of Community and Economic Development shall establish
11 the following program components:

12 (1) A network of veterans and reservists business
13 centers throughout this Commonwealth. Business centers shall
14 be colocated at State System of Higher Education universities
15 or community colleges to maximize innovative potential and
16 minimize program costs. The secretary shall ensure the
17 utilization and coordination of available resources,
18 including, but not limited to, PA CareerLink centers, Small
19 Business Development Centers and the Ben Franklin Technology
20 Partners. The number and location of the veterans and
21 reservists business centers shall be at the discretion of the
22 secretary, except that veterans, reservists and dependents of
23 veterans and reservists from all areas of this Commonwealth
24 must have reasonable access to all services under this
25 chapter by June 30, 2022.

26 (2) A strong academic foundation to support ongoing
27 training and research capabilities.

28 (3) A sustainable business model to ensure the program
29 continues beyond its initial start-up period.

30 (4) Open innovation practices, through ongoing doctoral-

1 level research, job training and program evaluation, that
2 share lessons learned and showcase best practices.

3 (b) Services.--Services provided through the program must
4 adequately provide for the unique needs of veterans, reservists
5 and dependents of veterans and reservists. The training and
6 development provided must be tailored to address individual
7 entrepreneurial needs. Each business center established under
8 this section shall, at a minimum, provide the following
9 services:

10 (1) Financial guidance, including training and
11 counseling on applying for and securing business credit and
12 investment capital, preparing and presenting financial
13 statements and managing cash flow and other operations of a
14 small business concern.

15 (2) Information seminars on securing loans, business
16 plan development, marketing, accounting, budgeting and
17 merchandising.

18 (3) Assistance for veteran-owned small businesses to
19 facilitate access to traditional and nontraditional financing
20 sources.

21 (4) Counseling for members of reserve components to
22 prepare their businesses for periods when reservists are
23 under orders for active duty for a substantial period of
24 time.

25 (5) Coordinated services to assist unemployed veterans
26 and reservists or dependents of veterans and reservists in
27 becoming entrepreneurs.

28 (6) Assistance with the Commonwealth procurement
29 process, the Pennsylvania Small Business Contracting Program
30 and other federally sponsored and State-sponsored programs

1 that provide opportunities for doing business.

2 (7) Guidance on management, training, planning,
3 organization, staffing, direction and control of each major
4 activity and function of a small business concern.

5 (8) Assistance with marketing and training in marketing,
6 preparing and executing marketing plans, developing pricing
7 strategies, locating contracting opportunities, negotiating
8 contracts and using public relations and advertising.

9 (c) Coordination.--Whenever possible, the Department of
10 Community and Economic Development shall coordinate with the
11 Department of Labor and Industry to effectuate this chapter.
12 Information provided by the Joint State Government Commission
13 pursuant to Senate Resolution 255, Printer's Number 1465,
14 adopted on December 18, 2015, shall be utilized to assist the
15 department in the implementation of this chapter.

16 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.