



H.R. 6221 – Veteran-Owned Small Business Protection and Clarification Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6221 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Boozman (R-AR) on June 10, 2008. The House Committee on Veteran's Affairs agreed to the bill, as amended, on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 6221 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House today.

SUMMARY

Veteran's Small Business

H.R. 6221 requires each contract that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) entered into for the acquisition of goods and services after June 1, 2007, include a provision requiring that parties comply with federal requirements concerning the contracting goals and preferences for small businesses owned and controlled by veterans with service related disabilities.

On-Campus Workstudy Pilot Program

The Secretary is directed to conduct a five-year pilot project to test the feasibility of expanding the scope of veteran workstudy programs under which veterans may receive an additional educational assistance allowance. The types of workstudy positions affected by H.R. 6221 include on-campus employment, such as research or lab assistants, cafeteria cashiers, or admissions office assistants.

The bill authorizes \$10 million to carry out this program for fiscal years 2009-2013.

Military Occupational Specialty Transition Program

The bill directs the Secretary to create a job training program for honorably discharged veterans: 1) whose military occupational specialty at the time of discharge has limited transferability to the civilian job market; 2) who are not otherwise eligible for educational training services; 3) who have not acquired a marketable skill since discharge; or 4) been unemployed for at least 90 of the 180 days preceding their application to this program or their maximum hourly rate of pay during the preceding 180 day period is not more than 150 percent of the federal minimum wage.

The Secretary is to enter into apprenticeship programs with employers to provide qualifying veterans with on-the-job training. The VA will pay eligible veterans in apprentice programs 50 percent of the wages paid by their employer, but not more than \$20,000 annually or \$1,666.67 per month. These payments are only to be made for the first year of the veteran's participation in the program. Employers are to submit quarterly reports on the performance of participating veterans as well as certification of wages paid to the VA. The Secretary is to report on this program to Congress annually.

The bill authorizes \$60 million for this section for fiscal years 2009-2018.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to current Federal law, the Department of Veterans Affairs and its contractors must comply with certain contracting goals and preferences for small business concerns owned or controlled by veterans. In 2004, President Bush also issued an [Executive Order](#) encouraging heads of Executive agencies to establish a goal that not less than 3 percent of their Federal contracting be awarded to service disabled veterans. Service-disabled veterans are those U.S. military personnel who received injuries as a result of their military service.



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE | CHAIRMAN ADAM PUTNAM

1420 LONGWORTH HOB, WASHINGTON, DC 20515

www.GOP.gov

PHONE 202.225.5107

FAX 202.226.0154

The Small Business Administration operates an Office of Veterans Business Development which is responsible for liaising with the Veterans business community, acting as an Ombudsman for Veterans in Small Business Administration programs, providing business training, counseling and assistance, and for overseeing the Federal procurement programs for Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small businesses.

Over 24.8 million Americans are military veterans. Of these veterans, 2.2 million are disabled by disease or injury.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 6221 as of July 29, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.