

Veteran's Small Business Enhancement Bill of 2014

Proposal: A Bill to be passed in 2014 that would allow Veteran owned businesses to have a priority access to Federal excess and surplus personal property for a period of nine years after certification by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Background: During 2013 while working on the Surplus Property for Veteran's Bill of 2013 with Congressman Benishek's Office (R-MI) the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property (NASASP) worked with several national level Veteran's groups and reached out to numerous Veterans across the United States. It was then that we realized that according to organizations like the American Legion, during the next five years, over 1 million Veterans will be unemployed due to the draw downs from Iraq, Afghanistan and even Veterans coming out of the VA Hospitals. This is unacceptable in America and we met a number of Veterans who are or have started their own businesses using the skills they learned while defending this country. Passage of the proposed Veteran's Small Business Enhancement Bill of 2014 would result in tremendous cost savings for eligible recipients. Cost avoidance and savings for all types of property will enable these businesses to allocate the money for other purposes or hire additional personnel. The Bill will allow businesses to acquire much needed equipment and supplies at a low cost and low risk value. Quality used and new equipment of all types would be available to them, such as vehicles, computers, office equipment, food service equipment and heavy construction equipment.

The NASASP has for over 15 years been working in partnership with the GSA to provide Federal excess and surplus property to our minority businesses, known as 8(a) businesses. We believe that this effort has helped sustain thousands of small minority businesses during the tough economic times during the last decade and could do the same for Veteran owned businesses now and in the future. Who has earned the right to this benefit more than our Veterans?

Procedure: If enacted this Bill would allow eligible Veteran owned businesses to access Federal surplus and excess property through the State Agencies for Surplus Property (SASPs) who comprise the 56 members of NASASP. The procedure would follow the same procedure as for all donees served by our SASPs. Eligible businesses would select property with proper justification for its use from our SASPs warehouses or directly from Federal depots and civilian offices. There is no cost for the property but each item has a service and handling charge attached to it. This is due to little or no appropriations from our State administrations or the Federal government to administer the Federal surplus personal property program throughout the United States.

Authority: The authority for this effort must come from Congress through the passage of a Bill allowing the Veteran owned businesses access to Federal excess and surplus personal property. Eligible businesses must be owned by an honorably discharged Veteran. They must meet all criteria assigned by the SBA and the GSA. Since they are for-profit organizations they will fall outside of Title 40, section 549 which regulates the Federal surplus personal property program. What the NASASP proposes once the Bill is passed is to put separate Memorandums of Agreement in place in each state with the SBA to allow eligible Veteran owned businesses in that particular state to use the Program. This is exactly how the NASASP services minority 8(a) businesses and has since 1999. Finally the Veteran owned businesses would be under the same type of restrictions for property usage as the 8(a) businesses and the NASASP and the SBA would share oversight responsibilities.

Any questions concerning the is matter should be addressed to the Executive Director of the NASASP, Mr. Scott E. Pepperman at 717-389-5100, or ExecutiveDirector@nasasp.org