

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Kevin Boyle

DATE: January 1, 2013

RE: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses
Reintroduction of former HB 1081

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation (former House Bill 1081) to assist service-disabled veteran-owned businesses in obtaining additional contracting opportunities in Pennsylvania. This legislation is based upon the Federal Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 and the Veterans Benefits Act (VBA) of 2003. My legislation creates a set-aside procurement program for service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns in Pennsylvania.

Specifically, my legislation would create a set-aside category of businesses owned by veterans who were disabled in the line of duty. It would require state agencies, working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Small Business Administration, to implement annual statewide participation goals of not less than five percent. Further, the legislation calls for the appointment of a State service-disabled veteran-owned business coordinator and subsequent business advocates in each department to assist, coordinate and provide information.

Each year, awarding departments would report to the Governor and General Assembly on the participation of service-disabled veteran-owned business for the prior fiscal year. In addition, the Department of General Services would be required to issue a summary report detailing each awarding department's goal achievement in addition to a statewide total of the goals. If an awarding department does not meet its established objectives for the previous fiscal year, the department shall identify the reasons for the shortfall and outline a strategy to meet future expectations. The legislation also provides provisions for bid documents and information by awarding departments.

While the Pennsylvania Procurement Code sets forth policies and procedures relating to the procurement of goods, services and construction by Commonwealth agencies, it does not provide percentage requirements. As such, I believe it is important to establish specific percentage requirements for assisting service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses throughout Pennsylvania.