



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 15-2463, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE IN OUTREACH FOR VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES**

**WHEREAS**, of approximately 12 million American veterans participating in the U.S. labor market 3.6 million are self-employed small business owners or co-owners of their small business; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Census Bureau, self-employed veterans generate \$1.65 trillion annually in the American economy and employ more than 10 million Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, veterans are self-employed at a rate almost 50 percent higher than non-veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, Small Business Administration research found that 23 percent of veterans are either starting a small business or are seriously considering doing so; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Veterans Preference and Qualified Veteran Owned Business Incentive Acts serve as mechanisms to assist those persons who served in the United States military; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of the Cook County owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County seeks to ensure that employment and entrepreneurial opportunities are available to its veterans in their time of need; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently only twenty-nine Cook County certified Veteran Business Enterprises; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding the number of Veteran Business Enterprises will provide further contracting opportunities for veteran-owned businesses in both the public and private sectors; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners will engage with veterans through outreach to local veterans organizations, community organizations, churches, chambers of commerce, and elected officials to promote the Cook County Veteran Business Enterprise Program; and shall actively recruit volunteer legal and business advisors to guide and support veterans as they navigate the Cook County Veteran Business Enterprise application process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official record of this honorable body.