



2018 SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Harry W. Colmery Educational
Assistance Act of 2017



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Overview



- Implementation of the Forever GI Bill is segmented into three implementation periods:
- Date of Enactment (13 provisions);
- Effective January – August 2018 (18 provisions); and
- Effective October 2018 and Beyond (3 provisions).
- VA continues to take action and make progress toward successfully implementing each provision.

Date of Enactment

- Section 106: Restoring lost GI Bill benefits
- Week of January 8: sent targeted letter to 3,000 individuals that described potential impacts,
- explained new law, and invited recipients to send in new application/contact us for more information
- Approved 40 elections – service is now credited towards the Post-9/11 GI Bill program



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Date of Enactment

- Section 109: Restoration of Entitlement
- Mobilized a specialized team in Muskogee to process claims
- Streamlined the restoration application process
- Notified nearly 8,000 potential claimants electronically
- Updated all social media platforms and GI Bill webpages
- As of March 23, 2018, processed over 1200 applications and restored over 7800 months in entitlement to over 750 beneficiaries



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Date of Enactment (Cont.)

- Section 112: Removes 15-Year Time Limit for Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Updated Certificates of Eligibility and manually processed award letters to reflect Colmery Act changes (December 20)
- Office of Information Technology and Education Service working collaboratively to review and update automated award letters to appropriately inform beneficiaries of Colmery Act impact
- Sent email/mail notification in February 2018 to eligible beneficiaries (635K) that they may no longer have a time limitation to use their benefit



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Date of Enactment (Cont.)

- Section 201: Permanent Authorization of **VA's Work-Study Programs**
- Updated VA webpages, FAQs, and social media to show program is now permanent
- Shared notification with CELOs and ELRs, SAAs, VSOs, Education Services, and Central
- Office contacts for VHA, NCA, VBA
- Section 301: Increased State Approving Agency (SAA) Funding
- Funding Allocated for FY 2018
- Will allocate \$23M plus Cost of Living Adjustment in FY 2019



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Date of Enactment (Cont.)

- Section 302: Independent Study at Non-IHLs
- Updates to the Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS) were made to support implementation (February 2018)
- Shared notification with CELOs, ELRs, and SCOs
- Notified SAAs of change



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Date of Enactment (Cont.)

- Section 303: Priority Enrollment; work centralized to Eastern Region Compliance and Liaison staff through August 1, 2019
- Update to GI Bill Comparison Tool to display information expected in May 2018
- Section 307: Codification of Vet Success on Campus (VSOC)
- Codified into law 94 schools
- Expansion in FY 2018, VA expects to be at 105 schools



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Date of Enactment (Cont.)

- Section 309: First Day of Term within 7 Days In SCO handbook
- Section 310: SAAs Conduct Risk-Based Surveys
- Collaborating with SAAs to redesign compliance reviews
- Established working group



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Future Effective Date

Effective January 1, 2018

- Section 501: Remove Exemption from DoD Basic Allowance of Housing Reduction
- Ends reduction exemption on GI Bill stipends
- Building business requirements to implement



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Section 501

How Section 501 will be applied:

There are now two categories of individuals with separate rate tables:

1. Individuals who began using Post -9/11 GI Bill and received housing payments before January 1, 2018, will receive the “uncapped” rates from the “VA Rate Table”
2. Individuals who begin using Post-9/11 GI Bill or have not received housing payments until on or after January 1, 2018, will receive the “capped” rates from the “DOD Rate Table”



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Future Effective Date

Effective August 1, 2018

Section 103: Yellow Ribbon for Fry Scholarship
and Purple Heart Recipients

Available to Veterans and most transfer of
entitlement recipients at the 100% benefit level

FY 19 – Yellow Ribbon increase to: \$23,671.94



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Future Effective Date (Cont.)

Effective August 1, 2018 (Cont.)

- Section 107: Monthly Housing Allowance to Reflect Campus Location
- Requires VA to calculate the MHA under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on the location of the campus where the individual physically attends a majority of classes

Campus will include:

- Individual campus of a school where the student is taking classes (i.e. the school's science center, humanities building, or athletic center)
- Any internship, externship, practicum or student teaching site
- VA socializing and reviewing implementation options with stakeholders



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Understanding Section 107

- Requires **VA** to calculate the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on the location of the campus where the individual ***physically attends the majority of their classes***
- MHA will no longer be based on the “Institution” location of the school where the individual is enrolled
- **Applies to all new terms beginning on or after August 1, 2018**



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Updates to VA Systems

- The systems potentially being updated as a result of Section 107 are:
- VA Online Certification Enrollment (VA-ONCE)
- Long Term Solution (LTS)
- Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS)
- GI Bill Comparison Tool
- The projected date for these system updates is July 2018



Future Enrollment Submission Process

- Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, starting August 1, 2018, VA will calculate MHA based on the location of the campus *where the individual physically attends the majority of their classes.*
- A student's MHA will no longer be based on the zip code of the facility the student is attending. It will be based on the zip code where the student physically attends the majority of their classes.



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Proposed View in VAONCE



once04
-2222-22

Cert Complete Submit Print

Certs

Name: _____

SSN: _____

File/Payee: 222-03-2222/00

Program: BA ARTS

Chapter: 33

Training Type: Undergraduate

BIO		CERTS			VA DATA		LOG			HISTORY		
ALL		ALL			ALL							
Term Name	Status	Info	Begin Date	End Date	Facility Code	Res	Dist	Begin Date Range	to	End Date Range		
Term Name								R/D	Clock	LDA/EFF Date	Facility Code	Cert ID
2												
2											11995999	38969894
▶ 5E SUM 18			5/5/2018	8/5/2018		0	0				22222222	38969894
▶ 5E SPR18			1/3/2018	4/25/2018		0	0				22222222	38969894
▶ 5E FALL 2018			8/15/2018	12/15/2018		12	0				22222222	38969894

Edit Enrollment

Save Cancel

Facility: 22222222

Trng Type: IHL_Undergraduate

Prgrm: BA ARTS

Prior Credit

FALL 2018	▶	8/15/2018	12/15/2018	12	0	R/D	Clock	5000
Term Name		Begin Date*	End Date*	Res	Dist*	R/D	Clock	T&F*

Advance Pay Accelerated Pay

LDA/EFF Date	LD Accrued
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Class Information

total credit hrs:	12		
course zip code:	20715	credit hours at zip code:	9
course zip code:	20740	credit hours at zip code:	3

✚ Add new row

Remarks

Modify Remarks List

asks
Margin
Help

Proposed View in VAONCE

Enrollment Certification VA-ONCE ver. P053 - Chapter 33
VA File No.

Student Information

Type of Training

Undergraduate

Name of Program

PERFORMING ARTS - BA;021;096

Total number of credits enrolled: 12

Tuition & Fees: \$5400

Credit for Prior Training NA

Enroll Begin	Dates End	Res Hrs	Dist Hrs	Zip Code	R/D Hrs	Clock Hrs	Yellow Ribbon Program Amount	Out St Chg
08/15/18	12/15/18		3	00000				
08/15/18	12/15/18		3	00000				
08/15/18	12/15/18		3	00000				
08/15/18	08/15/18		3	00000				

CERTIFICATION: All Provisions on VA Form 22-1999 Are Certified.

Date Signed School Information

12/05/2017
EC VAONCE ACCOUNT
DEMO UNIVERSITY IHL
1800 G STREET
WASHINGTON, DC 20420
Phone #
Facility Code 222222

Electronically Received by VA:

VA Form 22-1999
Mar 2009 OMB Control No. 2900-0073

CertID: 38969894
TransID:



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Approval of Sites by the State Approving Agency (SAA):

Schools will need to provide their SAA of jurisdiction and VA an updated copy of their catalog (or a catalog addendum) which specifically lists each campus of the school and provides the zip code for that campus.

VA will be actively engaging with SAAs and schools to see how schools can identify and provide the zip code information for **each of the schools' internship, externship, practicum and student teaching sites.**

The expected deadline for all schools to provide updated catalogs or catalog addendums to their SAA is August 2019.



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Compliance Survey Updates

- It will be the responsibility of the school to be able to provide formal documentation to the Compliance Survey Specialist to verify specifically **where a course, internship, externship, or practicum is taking place.**
- Example: Updated Course Catalog which shows the zip codes of the campuses where students are attending.
- Example: Catalog addendum which identifies each campus and its zip code. Reminder - VA may hold a school liable for an overpayment to a student if the overpayment was made as a result of:
 - Willful or negligent failure of the school to report excessive absences from a course, or discontinuance or interruption; or
 - Willful or negligent false certification



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Future Effective Date (Cont.)

- Section 304: Annual Reporting Fees Requirements
- Revises the requirements governing reporting fees payable to educational institutions and joint apprenticeship training committees
- Preparing Communications Plan to inform about increased fee and limitations



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Future Effective Date (Cont.)

- Effective August 1, 2018 (Cont.)
- Section 305: Training Requirements for School Certifying Officials
- Authorizes VA, in consultation with the SAAs, to provide training requirements for school certifying officials
- Collaborating with SAAs on training and implementation



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Future Effective Date (Cont.)

- Section 308: School View of Remaining GI Bill Months
- Requires VA to make available to education institutions information about the amount of educational assistance a Veteran can get under Chapter 30, 32, 33, or 35
- Developing processes and procedures to allow Veteran to opt-out



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Future Effective Date (Cont.)

The following sections will be implemented:

Effective August 1, 2019

Section 111: STEM Scholarship

- Authorizes VA to provide up to nine months of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to certain individuals
- The additional benefits could not be transferred to dependents
- Priority is given to individuals who are entitled to 100% of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those who require the most credit hours



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THANKS FOR COMING



Questions



VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION



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