Education Service Update

National Association of Veterans Program Administrators

POST★ 9/11
GI BILL
It’s Your Future

October 5-9, 2015

Robert M. Worley II
Director, Education Service
Overview

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- Long Term Solution (LTS)
- Mitigating Circumstances
- Claims Processing Highlights
- Education Service – Field Operations
- Flight School
- Joint Advisory Committee
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- PL 113-164 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act 2014
- VA’s Key FY16 Legislative Proposals
- Legislation Introduced in the 114th Congress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Education Programs</th>
<th>FY 11 Trainees Dollars Paid</th>
<th>FY 12 Trainees Dollars Paid</th>
<th>FY 13 Trainees Dollars Paid</th>
<th>FY 14 Trainees Dollars Paid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 30</td>
<td>Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)-AD</td>
<td>185,220 / $1.4B</td>
<td>118,549 / $932M</td>
<td>99,755 / $775M</td>
<td>77,389 / $512M</td>
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<td>Chapter 32</td>
<td>Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)</td>
<td>112 / $1.3M</td>
<td>76 / $682K</td>
<td>29 / $496K</td>
<td>8 / $359K</td>
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<td>*Chapter 33</td>
<td>Post-9/11 GI Bill</td>
<td>555,329 / $7.7B</td>
<td>646,302 / $8.5B</td>
<td>754,229 / $10.2B</td>
<td>790,408 / $10.8B</td>
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<td>Chapter 35</td>
<td>Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program (DEA)</td>
<td>90,657 / $463M</td>
<td>87,707 / $455M</td>
<td>89,160 / $483M</td>
<td>90,789 / $514M</td>
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<td>Chapter 1606</td>
<td>Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)</td>
<td>65,216 / $201M</td>
<td>60,393 / $157M</td>
<td>62,656 / $156M</td>
<td>63,745 / $150M</td>
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<td>Chapter 1607</td>
<td>Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)</td>
<td>27,302 / $95M</td>
<td>19,774 / $77M</td>
<td>17, 297 / $70M</td>
<td>13,784 / $56M</td>
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<td>Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>12,251 / $6.1M</td>
<td>67,918 / $428M</td>
<td>52,288 / $413M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>923,836 / $9.8B</td>
<td>945,052 / $10.1B</td>
<td>1,091,044 / $12.1B</td>
<td>1,088,411 / $12.4B</td>
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As of October 1, 2015, VA issued $55.9 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit payments to 1,476,957 individuals since program inception (August 2009).

Note: Dollars may not add due to rounding.
Automation Summary for FY14
Total Claims Automated: 2,965,980
Total Claims Fully Automated: 1,524,570
Total Claims Partially Automated: 1,048,709
Total Claims Manually Automated: 458,052
% Claims Fully Automated: 51.4%
% Claims Partially Automated: 33.1%

Automation Summary for FYTD 2015
Total Claims Automated: 2,699,303
Total Claims Fully Automated: 1,417,212
Total Claims Partially Automated: 899,805
Total Claims Manually Automated: 382,286
% Claims Fully Automated: 52.5%
% Claims Partially Automated: 33.3%
Secure Code Remediation Release 6.5.2:
• User Acceptance Testing for Secure Code Remediation is ongoing for an October release.
  – Office of Information & Technology (OIT) resolving security vulnerabilities from monthly security scans for the LTS.
  – Resolving defects and testing for Internet Explorer 11.

Software Patches:
• Tested various software patches applied to the LTS system over the last several months.

LTS Knowledge Transfer:
• Conducted training and a live demonstration of the LTS for OIT from the Veterans Claims Examiner's perspective.

Preparation for Release 6.6.0:
• Review defects and enhancements with OIT for future release.
• Scheduled for 1st Quarter in FY16
Mitigating Circumstances

• Mitigating circumstances are unanticipated or unavoidable events beyond a beneficiary’s control that lead to the withdrawal from, or failure to complete, one or more classes with non-punitive grades

• If a student drops a course or withdraws from school after the drop/add period and receives a non-punitive grade, VA may reduce benefits effective the first day of the term unless the student provides evidence of “mitigating circumstances”
  – Situations beyond the student's control that prevent the student from continuing in school or that cause the student to reduce credits
  – Examples: Death in his or her immediate family, personal health reasons, unforeseen change in work obligation

• If a student drops hours and does not provide acceptable mitigating circumstances, instead of reducing last day of attendance, VA will reduce/terminate beginning of the term
Mitigating Circumstances

- Please help us help students understand that when a student drops/terminates, he or she may receive a request for mitigating circumstances from VA
  - If not received/accepted, the overpayment will be much more substantial than if submitted
- The most effective way for students to provide mitigating circumstances is to submit them to their School Certifying Official, along with notification of the dropped course/s
- Report the drop and note the mitigating circumstances in “Standard Remarks” via VA-ONCE, enabling VA to review the mitigating circumstances and reduce/terminate the benefits in one action
- Long Term Solution Release 6.5.0 - Now includes functionality allowing for the proper processing of mitigating circumstances
- Plan to implement in November 2015
## Claims Processing Highlights

### Claims Inventory

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<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FYTD through August 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Claims Processed</td>
<td>4.5M</td>
<td>4.3M</td>
<td>3.7M</td>
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<td>Original Claims Timeliness (Average Days to Complete)</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>17.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental Claims Timeliness (Average Days to Complete)</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payment Accuracy</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
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### Claims Processed

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<th>Original</th>
<th>Supplemental</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>32,725</td>
<td>295,106</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>35,403</td>
<td>315,469</td>
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### Processing Targets for FY 2015

- Process 4.5 million claims
- Continue to improve average days to complete original and supplemental claims
- Maintain 98% (or better) payment processing accuracy
Education Service - Field Operations

- Education workload is distributed over four Regional Processing Offices (RPOs), located in Buffalo, NY; Atlanta, GA; St. Louis, MO; and Muskogee, OK. RPO operations are overseen by the director of Education Service (EDU).

- Education Service continues to work toward improving the Veteran experience by increased collaboration between the operations, policy, and training aspects of education programs, improving efficiency and effectiveness by centralizing processes and applying consistency to operations at the RPOs.

- RPOs process over 4 million claims per year. There are approximately 1,600 field employees among the RPOs, including staff at the Education Call Center in Muskogee. Muskogee has the highest volume of incoming workload (48%), followed by St. Louis (26%), Buffalo (18%) and Atlanta (7%).
Education Service - Field Operations

• Education Service brokers cases between the RPOs to manage resources at a national level, minimize variances in timeliness, and ensure Veterans and dependents in all areas have claims addressed in the same amount of time regardless jurisdiction.
  • During the Fall 2015 peak enrollment period (July, August, and September 2015), 7,988 claims have been processed through brokering.

• Committee on Waivers functions were centralized to the St. Louis RPO on June 15, 2015. Centralizing will allow for greater efficiency in processing waivers and improved communications with the Debt Management Center.

• Education Service is currently conducting a work measurement study with its RPOs to gather data on volume and processing times. This data will be used to find ways to improve and standardize the process.
GI Bill® Registered Trademark

- GI Bill® is a Federally registered trademark owned by VA
- As part of the Principles of Excellence, VA trademarked the term to stop deceptive and misleading promotional efforts targeting GI Bill educational benefits

**Authorized to use the trademark**

- Education/training institutions eligible to receive GI Bill benefits
- State Approving Agencies
- Recognized Veterans Service Organizations
- Must use the trademark symbol in the most prominent place and give attribution (wording on [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill) along with full instructions on Terms of Use)

**Third-party users**

- Cannot use the term in company names, internet domain names or logos
- Can only use the term to promote VA benefit programs
No one may

- Use the GI Bill trademark to imply a relationship, affiliation, or association with VA that does not exist
- Misrepresent VA services through use of the mark or by the use of confusingly similar wording

Enforcement

- Report suspected violations by email to GI-Bill.Trademark@va.gov

Potential Violations Under Investigation

- Charter College notified July 2015 of violation (trademark displayed but no attribution/disclaimer statement shown on website)

Resolved Issues

- Use of “GI Bill” without trademark symbol “®” in content on website; cease and desist letter sent to a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (Service School) in December 2014
- One Facebook page (GI Bill Asia) removed due to trademark violations along with a letter from the Director sent to the owner in January 2015
- Cease and desist sent to National-College.edu (not approved for GI Bill benefits) and New Horizons Computer Learning Center, (for profit, over 300 locations in 70 countries) removed all GI Bill references
Flight Schools Review

VA conducted surveys at 108 institutions of higher learning (IHLs) with contracted flight programs between April 6, 2015 and May 11, 2015. Some of our initial findings are as follows:

- 60 schools had no adverse findings.
- 10 schools had programs that were in violation of the 85/15% requirements. The programs in question will remain suspended for the enrollment of new students until they are in compliance with 85/15% requirements.
- 8 schools were identified to have been providing inaccurate certification regarding the actual begin and/or end dates of the flight training being taken as part of the degree program.
- 40 schools were certifying flight hours to VA for payment in excess of the number of hours required for successful completion of the course, and/or the schools had no clear designation for the number of flight hours required.
- 3 schools were contracting with a flight facility that was not approved/approvable for payment of VA benefits.
- Different flight equipment is being used for different students in the conduct of the same program of education at a different and usually higher cost.
Flight Schools Review

Action Taken:

• A policy advisory providing requirements for IHL Degree involving training that is provided and charged on an hourly basis (such as flight training) was distributed to all IHLs with flight programs on September 1, 2015. It requires schools to provide specific hours and fees in their catalog for flight programs.

• A webinar was held on September 17th for all IHLs with flight programs to reinforce the messages contained in the policy advisory and answer questions.

• Where appropriate, VA will create debts and pursue “school liability” for schools that had documented flight hour standards and exceeded those standards.

• Education Service will add a flight program-specific section to the School Certifying Handbook, and we will be emphasizing flight training at all future SCO conferences.

• Follow-up webinar planned for November.
SAA Allocation Model

• On September 24, 2013, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) contracted with W.P. Cioffi Engineering Management (WPCE) to study and build a more robust and equitable model for distributing the $19 million.

• This model was developed with feedback from members of the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA), VA Central Office, and VA field staff.

• It is a workload requirements-based model that uses time estimates derived from field staff interviews, active facilities, and industrial-engineered modules to determine the full-time employees (FTE) needed to complete the work.

• A requirements-based model is driven by number of facilities by type and engineered estimates of accomplishment time.

• Education Service plans to implement this new model for FY 2017.
  – 50% control for FY 2017, ensuring no change greater than 50%.

• Draft model was created for FY 2016, amounts to be given to SAAs prior to October 1, 2015, to plan for FY 2017.
Joint Advisory Committee

What Is It?
- A standing forum to identify issues, deliberate, make decisions, and implement positive change
- 6 members from Education Service/ 6 members from the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA)
- Identify issues, deliberate, make decisions and implement positive change
- Facilitate consistent interpretation and application of compliance and approval laws, regulations, and procedures
- Collaborate and partner with the goal of providing effective and efficient service to Veterans

Issues Under Discussion
- Centralized Certification Procedures
- Elimination of paper compliance and approval files
- Section 701/702 compliance
- Flight school compliance survey updates
  - Contracted flight schools
  - Stand-alone flight schools
VA is currently preparing guidance for FY 2016 reviews to allow for greater flexibility in including high-risk schools.

Survey Data through August 15, 2015

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<tr>
<th>Survey Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>VA Completed</td>
<td>1,957</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAA Completed</td>
<td>2,506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Surveys Completed FY 2015</td>
<td>4,463</td>
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</table>
Compliance and Liaison

• ELRs and ECSSs participated in a National Training Conference from September 22-24, 2015, with special emphasis on the following goals:
  – Providing more consistent information to schools across all four RPOs
  – Promoting consistency in compliance surveys across all four RPOs

• A revised SCO Handbook was published on September 18, 2015.
  – Revised prior credit policy – SCOs should not withhold certification if a transcript cannot be obtained
    • Does not remove the requirement to evaluate prior credit
  – Clarified the policy for repeating courses
  – Added information on Executive Order 13607, Principles of Excellence, CareerScope®, GI Bill® Feedback System, GI Bill® Comparison Tool, and GI Bill® Trademark Terms of Use
GI Bill® Comparison Tool

- **Comparison Tool** was launched on February 4, 2014, in response to Executive Order 13607 to implement and promote “Principles of Excellence.” Two additional releases were launched in 2014. As of September 29, the Comparison Tool had **1,210,728 unique page views** to over **1 million users**.

The Comparison Tool:

- Streamlines information into an easy-to-use online tool
- Combines resources from more than 17 different web pages and three Federal Agencies
- Provides information to calculate benefits and research approved programs
- Compares multiple schools
- Displays school-level complaint data from the Feedback System
- Displays Section 702 (in-state tuition provision of the Choice Act) school approval information
- Displays Military Tuition Assistance (TA) for schools offering tuition assistance to service members
Recently Added Functionality:

- Displays Caution Flag for schools listed on Department of Education’s Heightened Cash Monitoring (HCM) list
- 2015 Housing Rates
- 2015/2016 Tuition Cap Rates
- VSOC Counselors- displays updated contact information for the 2015-2016 academic year
- Section 702 In-state Tuition
- Provides Data Dashboard “GI Bill Quick Facts” (open source data that answer simple questions)
  - Veteran Initiatives
  - School Type (Tuition and Fee Benefits Paid)
  - Largest GI Bill Campuses
Future releases will include:

- More Caution Flag Information
- School Certifying Official Contact Information
- Detailed Accreditation Information
- Major/Program Type
- In-State Tuition Policies
- Veteran Outcome Measures
- Feedback Rating
- School Profile Page
- Enhanced Print Functionality

ECC CRM Release 2.1:
• As of August 17, the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Tool Release 2.1 was deployed to 300 computers

Functionality Includes:
• Improved data retrieval from the LTS, BDN, WEAMS, and TIMS is now integrated, organized, and viewed inside the CRM tool in a consistent and efficient way.
• Improved call volume management to ensure better management during peak season

ECC CRM Sustainment:
• ECC CRM Pilot has transitioned from a development phase to a sustainment phase.
• 176 ECC Specialists have been trained on the CRM tool; 63 Specialists remain to be trained by November 2015.
• The first maintenance release is scheduled for October 2015.
• The next release will address defects identified after the August deployment.
GI Bill® Feedback System

• On January 30, 2014, VA launched the Feedback System to intake student complaints concerning non-compliant POE schools

• Total complaints as of August 31, 2015: 3,953. Of these:
  – POE complaints: 2,816 (71%)
    • Pending: 11 (<1%)
    • Active: 873 (31%)
    • Closed: 1,932 (69%)
  – Non-POE complaints: 1,137 (29%)

• Risk-based reviews conducted as of August 31, 2015: 73
  – 7 withdrawals

• GI Bill® Feedback System Observations:
  – Communication — Issues between school staff and students
  – Financial issues — Timeliness of certification submission
  – Transfer of credits — General lack of understanding by students
  – Refund issues — Administration with multiple types of financial aid (Title IV & VA)

http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Feedback.asp
GI Bill® Feedback System – Complaints by Issue

Complaints by Issue

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Executive Order 13607

- VA is required to develop and publish outcome measures, which will support Veterans, Servicemembers, and their family members in making the most informed educational decisions.
- VA, ED, and DoD have been working in collaboration over the past 3 years to develop, define, and publish outcome measures that will provide information on available educational programs.

Outcome Measures VA Plans to Publish:

- Retention Rate
- Persistence Rate
- Transfer-Out Rate
- Graduation Rate
- Certificate Completion Rate

Outcome Measures Progress:

- November 25, 2014 – Missive to schools and other key stakeholders.
- December 23-24, 2014 – VA sent the data to the schools.
- September 2015- VA extracts updated dataset to publish.
- September 29, 2015 – Outcome Measures published on the GI Bill® Website.
Section 701: Extends eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits under Fry Scholarship to the spouses of active duty Servicemembers who die in the line of duty

Section 701 Progress:

October 20, 2014 – Section 701 eligibility expansion was announced via VA press release

October 22, 2014 – Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity sent e-mail announcing the expanded benefit; began promoting via social media; posted fact sheet to GI Bill® website and Choice Act website

October 23, 2014 – VA Form 22-5490 (Dependents’ Application for VA Education Benefits) published on VA’s internet site

November 3, 2014 – RPOs began accepting applications

November 5, 2014 – Mailed over 6,800 letters to potential beneficiaries

September 25, 2015 – RPOs have received 1,449 applications and issued 813 certificates of eligibility to spouses and 533 disallowances.
Section 702 Progress

As of August 28, 2015:

- **46** states and **3** territories are compliant.
- **4** states (AR, DE, IA, LA), **2** territories (AS, MP), and the District of Columbia are noncompliant.
  - All are working towards compliance by December 31, 2015.
Section 702 Funding:

- Education Service will utilize $8M in reprogrammed funding for system updates to:
  - Implement legislative requirements directed by the Choice Act (e.g. allow VA to disapprove institutions that charge Veterans out-of-state rate)
  - Improve security and systems integration to enhance the user’s experience, provide flexibility and capability to report and capture program-level information
  - Improve business analytics and reporting capabilities to understand various drivers of performance, their relationship to future outcomes, and improve decision-making for key stakeholders
  - Systems impacted include:
    - Benefits Delivery Network (BDN)
    - Electronic Certification Automated Processing (ECAP)
    - Long Term Solution (LTS)
    - Veterans Online Certification of Enrollment System (VA-ONCE)
    - Veterans Online Application Direct Connect System (VONAPP-VDC)
    - Web-Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS)
  - Contract awarded September 22, 2015 and work is underway
  - New system is named VACERTS
Prevent VA from Providing Unlimited Amounts of Payments for Flight Training at Public School

- Amend title 38 U.S.C. § 3313(e) to impose tuition and fee payment caps at Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) with flight training programs and establish a maximum allowable fee structure for all VA-funded flight programs.

Prevent VA from Providing Unlimited Amounts of Payments for Flight Training at Public School

- Amend title 38 U.S.C. § 3313(e) to impose tuition and fee payment caps at Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) with flight training programs and establish a maximum allowable fee structure for all VA-funded flight programs. Under this proposal, the maximum allowable fee for flight training would be capped at $21,260 in 2016. Savings are estimated to by $26.3 million in 2016, $27.4 million in 2017, $143.5 million for five years, and $325.9 million for over 10 years.
VA’s Key FY16 Legislative Proposals

Remove Housing Allowance Requirements for Refund of the $1,200 Contribution Under Chapter 30

- Amend Title 38 U.S.C. § 3011(b) and § 3012(c) to provide a refund of Chapter 30 contributions directly to the Veteran upon exhaustion of Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement, regardless of who uses the entitlement or whether he/she is receiving monthly housing allowance benefits. Costs are estimated to be $4.2 million in 2016, $4.3 million in 2017, $21.6 million over five years, and $44.1 million over 10 years.

Authorization of Expanded Work-Study Activities

- Amend 38 U.S.C., section 3485(a)(4) to authorize, for ten years, the VA work-study program to provide work-study benefits for certain activities including outreach programs with State Approving Agencies, State Homes, National Cemeteries and State Cemeteries. Estimated costs for this proposal are $965 thousand in 2016, $1 million in 2017, $5.3 million over five years, and $11.9 million over 10 years.
VA’s Key FY16 Legislative Proposals

Amend Title 38 USC, Sections 3315 to Charge Entitlement for Licensing and Certification Examinations at a Pro-rated Number of Days

- Request statutory change to 38 USC, section 3315 (or other related sections) to reimburse individuals for VA approved licensing and certification exams at a pro-rated number of days of entitlement scaled to the cost of the exam. Currently, individuals are charge a full month of entitlement, regardless of the cost of the exam. Costs associated with the proposal are estimated to be $218 thousand in 2016, $254 in 2017, $1.5 million over five years, and $5.0 million over 10 years.

Extension of Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education

- Amend Title 38. U.S.C. Section 3692 (c) to authorize VA’s Advisory Committee on Education through December 31, 2018. There are no benefit costs associated with this proposal.
H.R. 3016, the "Veterans Employment, Education, and Healthcare Improvement Act" contains provisions similar to those introduced in H.R. 475 GI Bill Processing Improvement Act and H.R. 476 GI Bill Education Quality Act of 2015:

- Requires VA to make changes and improvements to VBA IT systems to automate all original and supplemental claims
- Modifies definition of a “covered individual” in section 702 to remove the 3 year, 90 day, and discharge requirements for dependents
- Adds the relinquished benefit and election requirements in PL -110-252  to title 38
- Defines term “educational institution” to include a group, district, or consortium
- Requires VA to make information on amount of benefits a Veteran or individual is entitled to available to educational institutions through a secure information technology system
- Current Status as of 09/17/2015: Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote.

- Authorizes SAA to determine if programs meet the requirements to be “deemed approved”
- Amends 38 U.S.C. 3675 to include approval of non-degree programs at public private non-profit IHLs. Also grants SAAs primary approval authority for accredited programs not “deemed approved”
- Caps tuition & fees for programs at public IHLs
  - Requiring flight training,
  - Involving a contract with an educational institution other than a public IHL,
  - Exempts current students for 2-years
- Amends compliance survey requirements to require annual reviews of educational institutions with 20 or more beneficiaries and for all programs at least every 2 years
Legislation Introduced in 114th Congress

• **H.R. Unnumbered, GI Bill Transferability**
  – Would require Servicemembers to complete 10 years of service and enter an agreement to serve at least 2 more years to be eligible to transfer their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to family members.
  – Would change the rate of payment for dependents who receive transferred entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill to 50 percent of the amount of the basic allowance for housing stipend.
  – June 2, 2015: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. Hearings Held.

  – Allows an individual entitled to chapter 33 to also be entitled to the application fee required to apply to an approved program of education at an IHL. (Up to $750.00)
  – April 16, 2015: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.
Legislation Introduced in 114th Congress

  - Requires VA to work with a private contractor to administer a survey to individuals who have used or are using VA education benefits under Chapters 30, 32, 33, and 35 of title 38 U.S.C.
  - April 16, 2015: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.

  - Requires VA to consider certain time spent receiving medical care from the Secretary of Defense as active duty service performed by members of the Reserve and National Guard for purposes of eligibility for the Post-9/11 educational assistance.
  - April 16, 2015: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.
Legislation Introduced in 114th Congress

  - Adds new requirements to the criteria that must be met for State Approving Agencies (SAAs) to approve an institution’s written application for approval of non-accredited courses regarding licensure or certification.
  - September 17, 2015: Subcommittee ordered to be reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

  - Extends the authority for certain qualifying work-study activities through June 30, 2020.
  - June 25, 2015: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.
Legislation Introduced in 114th Congress

  – Would allow recipients of the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
  – September 16, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs held hearing.

• S. 1938, Career-Ready Student Veterans Act (Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Conn. – Introduced August 5, 2015)
  – Adds new requirements to the criteria that must be met for State Approving Agencies (SAAs) to approve an institution’s written application for approval of non-accredited courses regarding licensure or certification.
  – September 16, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs held hearing.
Legislation Introduced in 114th Congress

- **S. Unnumbered, GI Bill Processing Improvements**
  - Requires VA to make changes and improvements to VBA IT systems to automate all original and supplemental claims
  - Modifies definition of a “covered individual” in section 702 to remove the 3 year, 90 day, and discharge requirements for dependents
  - Adds the relinquished benefit and election requirements in PL -110-252 to title 38
  - Defines term “educational institution” to include a group, district, or consortium
  - Requires VA to make information on amount of benefits a Veteran or individual is entitled to available to educational institutions through a website
  - September 16, 2015: Committee on Veterans' Affairs held hearing
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