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Chapter 1 : Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of - Wikipedia

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An older version of this article misstated when VA will change the way it uses time in service to calculate GI Bill eligibility. This provision will go into effect in August. President Trump has just put his signature on a new law that will bring significant changes to education benefits for service members, veterans and their families. That requirement is going away. This portion of the law will apply to anyone who left the military after January 1, It will also apply to spouses who are receiving education benefits through the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship for family members of service members who have been killed in the line of duty since Sept. Purple Heart recipients will get more benefits. Previously, Purple Heart recipients were beholden to the same time-in-service qualifications for the GI Bill as other service members. This meant that Purple Heart recipients without a service-connected disability who did not reach 36 months of service were only eligible for a percentage of the benefits and not the full amount. An estimated Purple Heart recipients each year over the next 10 years will be able to take advantage of the increased benefits. More people are eligible for Yellow Ribbon. The Yellow Ribbon Program is a voluntary agreement between schools and the U. Department of Veterans Affairs to split school costs not covered by the GI Bill, reducing or eliminating the amount students must pay themselves. The Forever GI Bill will expand eligibility for this program to surviving spouses or children of service members in August and active-duty service members in August. Previously, only veterans eligible for GI Bill benefits at the percent level or their dependents using transferred benefits were eligible for Yellow Ribbon. Some college degrees in science, technology, engineering and math fields take longer than four years to complete, which is why the new law authorizes an additional school year of GI Bill funds on a first-come, first-serve basis. Only veterans or surviving family members of deceased service members are eligible for this scholarship – not dependents using transferred benefits. Vets hurt by school shutdowns will get benefits back. A provision in the new GI Bill that will restore benefits to victims of school closures has been a long-time coming for the staff at Student Veterans of America. This will include the thousands of veteran students who were attending the national for-profit chains Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institute when they closed in and , respectively. The VA will measure eligibility for benefits differently. Starting August , this bill changes the way the VA uses time in service to calculate eligibility. Previously, service members with at least 90 days but less than six months of active-duty service would be eligible for up to 40 percent of the full GI Bill benefits. Under new regulations, the same days-to-six-month window is equal to 50 percent of benefits. Service members with at least six months and less than 18 months of service will be eligible for 60 percent of benefits. Reservists can count more of their service toward eligibility. Starting next August, members of the National Guard and Reserve will be able to count time spent receiving medical care or recovering from injuries received while on active duty toward their GI Bill eligibility. Housing stipends will decrease slightly. The government will pay for the expansions represented in the Forever GI Bill through a 1 percent decrease in housing stipends over the next five years. Veterans on the GI Bill currently receive a slightly higher housing allowance rate than active-duty E-5s with dependents. This change will take effect on Jan. No one currently receiving a housing stipend from the VA will see a reduction in benefits. Benefits can get transferred after death. A provision of the new GI Bill offers more flexibility with the transfer and distribution of benefits in case of death. If a dependent who received transferred benefits dies before using all of the benefits, this provision gives the service member or veteran the ability to transfer remaining benefits to another dependent. This will go into effect August and apply to all deaths since. Surviving family members will get more money, but less time. Though the same program has previously provided 45 months of education benefits, that will decrease to 36 months in August to bring it in

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line with the provisions of the GI Bill. School certifying officials must be trained. Individuals who certify veteran student enrollment at schools with more than 20 veteran students will be required to undergo training. Previously, training was not mandatory.

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Chapter 2 : Veterans Services

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) VEAP is available if you elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. The government matches your contributions on a 2-for-1 basis.

Bush, Manpower and Personnel , U. We are pleased to appear before you today, on behalf of the Department of Defense DoD , to testify about the educational assistance programs available to active duty members, National Guard and Reserve members, and veterans. There is little doubt that the MGIB has met or even exceeded the expectations of its sponsors when it was enacted and has been a major contributor to the success of the All-Volunteer Force. While all earlier GI Bill programs were designed to ease the transition to civilian life from a conscripted military force, since we have defended this nation with a volunteer force. Enrollment in the active-duty MGIB program has risen from only 50 percent in its first year, , to nearly 97 percent today. A total of 2. Such enrollment rates demonstrate the attractiveness of the MGIB. It is our belief that there are no significant shortcomings to the program. Total expenses include tuition, fees, room, and board. Since , the benefit has been adjusted annually for inflation. The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps use this incentive to annually steer about 12, high-quality youth into the skills necessary for efficient force management. There is no doubt that the MGIB serves as a key recruiting incentive. Today, the Services are facing stiff challenges to recruiting. The number of graduates who are pursuing post-secondary education right out of high school is at an all-time high, and young people are finding that financial assistance to attend college is available from many sources. While many may look at the benefit level of the MGIB as it relates to readjustment and transition to civilian life, we must be mindful of its effect on military force management. The potential benefits of a higher benefit level to recruiting must be carefully evaluated in light of the difficulties some of the Services are currently experiencing in the recruiting market. Attracting qualified recruits using large, across-the board basic benefits incurs the risk that many who enter for the benefits will leave as soon as they can to use them. If so, lower first term retention could both reduce the number of experienced NCOs and Petty Officers available to staff the force, and put added pressure on the recruiting market as additional accessions are required to replace the members who leave. We posit that the negative retention impact starts to outweigh the positive impacts on recruiting when the monthly benefit is higher than the total cost of education. This indicates that educational assistance plays an important role in the decision to join the National Guard or Reserve. To illustrate the importance of the MGIB-SR program to our recruiting and retention efforts, just under 50 percent of members serving in the Selected Reserve today are within their eight-year military service obligation. Among those who have a remaining service obligation, they have the option of transferring to the Individual Ready Reserve at any time unless they have a contractual Selected Reserve service obligation based on receiving an incentive such as the MGIB-SR. Thus, incentives are an important tool in staffing our reserve units. To sustain the All-Volunteer Force, particularly in the Guard and Reserve where the majority of Selected Reserve members may quit at any time, we need every tool available to recruit and retain members in the Selected Reserve. The only requirement is that the member continues to serve in the Selected Reserve, or Ready Reserve if the member was serving in the Individual Ready Reserve when he or she was ordered to active duty. We also asked how satisfied members were with their educational benefits. Seventy-four percent responded that they were satisfied or very satisfied. Another 14 percent responded that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, with eight percent dissatisfied and four percent very dissatisfied. This feedback indicates that the programs are working well. Although as noted below, there are areas where we believe program improvements are warranted. Moreover, for the programs that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense—the Montgomery GI Bill for the Selected Reserve and the Reserve Educational Assistance Program—we must look at these recruiting and retention incentives through the lens of force management. We know that there are different factors or incentives that motivate an individual to join the

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military and to remain in the military. So we must determine if the incentives we offer are achieving our force management objectives. We also must balance priorities that are competing for limited resources. As previously noted, the current percent of the force that has gained eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill for the Selected Reserve is only slightly below the historic level—two percent. This is an indication that members still value the program. One area we have specifically looked at is the benefit rate. While the law provides for an annual rate adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index, there has been concern that benefit level has not kept up with the rising cost of education or increases to the MGIB programs. Adjusting the kicker rate would help the Services achieve force-shaping objectives by providing a richer kicker benefit to members who agree to serve in a skill designated as critically short. Unlike a general rate adjustment, this would help the Department relieve some of the stress on the force by providing an additional retention incentive for members who are currently in or will retrain into a critically short skill or specialty. Initiatives to reset the force and the drawdown of forces in the Air Reserve components could lead to some members losing eligibility to either or both programs. The Department also proposed an amendment to REAP which would allow a member of the Selected Reserve who incurs a break in Selected Reserve service, but remains in the Individual Ready Reserve or Inactive National Guard during that break, to continue to receive educational assistance payments for up to 90 days provided the member retains in the Individual Ready Reserve. If the break extends beyond 90 days, benefit payments would be suspended, but the member would not lose eligibility for the REAP benefit. Currently, the Selected Reserve member retains eligibility for REAP up to 90 days with no benefit payments, but loses all eligibility after 90 days. The change proposed by the Department would allow for a short period of uninterrupted benefits for members who transition between units or components and allow a member who has earned a benefit to retain the benefit indefinitely provided the member remains in the Ready Reserve. The reason typically cited for this change is that Reserve component members are now being called up to perform operational missions rather than to just train; therefore, it is only fair that they are allowed to use their educational assistance benefits after they leave the service—just like active duty members. There have been two approaches proposed to accomplish this. The second approach is simply recodify the two reserve educational assistance programs into title 38. While the Department strongly supports changes to the reserve educational assistance programs that help sustain the Reserve components and the All-Volunteer Force, we do not support consolidating the three educational assistance programs or transferring responsibility for the reserve educational assistance programs to the Department of Veterans Affairs. But if the programs are to continue to serve the purposes for which they were designed, it may be difficult to truly have one program. The calls for a single program simply views military service as the pathway to an education benefit, not a program to retain members. Moving the two reserve educational assistance programs to title 38 would place military force management programs under the jurisdiction of this committee and have them administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. This neither streamlines nor simplifies the programs. Nor does it fit with the purpose for which these programs were created—recruiting and retention. These are force management functions that belong to the Department of Defense, not the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides benefits and services to veterans and their families. The mission of DoD is to provide a fit, ready force to defend this nation. To do that, we need a range of incentives to help us manage, sustain and shape the force. Moving the two reserve program to the Department of Veterans Affairs does not help us to that. In fact, nearly 50 percent of all currently serving members of the Selected Reserve are already eligible for MGIB-AD benefits by virtue of prior active duty service. The member has the choice of which benefit he or she would like to use. Some commonality among all of the programs makes sense. They should all provide assistance for the same education programs so, other than the amount paid, use of any program is transparent to the student and educational institution. This can be achieved by linking the benefits available in the title 10 programs to the benefits provided in the title 38 programs, just as we did when we linked the benefit rates for the title 10 REAP program to the title 38 MGIB rate. There are a number of proposals to enhance the current Montgomery GI Bill. However, there is one bill S. While it may warrant some changes at

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the margin, there is no need for the kind of sweeping and expensive changes offered in S. The Department is concerned that a benefit of this amount would have long-term negative impacts on force management. It would be an enlistment incentive, to be sure; but it would be a larger reenlistment disincentive. Additionally, we are concerned that this Bill offers no provision for "kickers," which, as stated earlier, are used by the Services to channel high quality youth into hard-to-fill and critical skills. Unlike individuals who have an obligation to serve on active duty, many Reserve component members are under no obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve. Unless an individual commits to Selected Reserve service because he or she receives a bonus, receives student loan repayments, or commits to Selected Reserve service for the MGIB-SR benefits, a Guard or Reserve member makes a choice to continue to participate each time he or she reports for a drill weekend. This is why we are so interested in retaining the retention aspect of the two reserve educational assistance programs. If we still had a conscripted force, then retention would not be as much of a concern. But we have an All-Volunteer Force and we need incentives that encourage Guard and Reserve members to continue to serve, rather than providing incentives that encourage them to leave the force. This is in stark contrast to many of the sweeping changes in bills currently pending before Congress. While the amendments proposed in both bills would for the most part leave these two programs as currently structured in title 10 "recruiting and retention incentives" it has been widely publicized that the intent of placing the Reserve educational assistance programs in title 38 is to provide a post-service benefit. This will have a detrimental effect on retention. A preliminary assessment by a federally-funded research and development center FFRDC projects that modifying the REAP program to provide a post-service benefit could increase attrition by 10 percent among members who are not already eligible for MGIB benefits. If this change is enacted, it will impose an additional cost to DoD while transferring the cost of the current program to the Department of Veterans Affairs as direct spending "thus increasing the total cost to government. There is little doubt that such a change will increase attrition. Therefore, in order for DoD to sustain the same force level, the Department will incur a new replacement costs created when members who would otherwise remain in the Guard or Reserve in order to use these benefits separate. Finally, the Administration has worked with Congressional Budget and Appropriation Committees to ensure that the true cost of manpower is reflected in the budget of all agencies. Reserve education benefits are recruiting and retention incentives and, for this reason, they were funded on an actuarial basis in the DoD budget at the inception of the MGIB. Transferring responsibility for these two programs to DVA dismantles this funding mechanism with the programs then being budgeted as direct spending, which is contrary to transparent and responsible budgeting. As noted previously, most Selected Reserve members are not obligated to serve in the Selected Reserve. If enacted, this provision would take away one of our retention incentives. Further, this would impose the same cost to the Department as just described for transferring the two reserve educational assistance programs to DVA. Section and S. Currently, the service requirement is for continuous years of qualifying service. Finally, section and S. Therefore, the Department supports section and those provisions of S. Credit for our success in attracting high-quality people to serve in uniform belongs in large measure to the Congress for providing military members with the benefits embodied in the educational assistance programs. Few areas, if any, are more important to DoD than recruiting and retention. We recognize our duty to man the All-Volunteer Force with high-quality, motivated, and well-trained men and women. As we move through the 21st Century, we must continue to build upon the remarkable legacy of the visionaries who crafted preceding versions and improvements in the GI Bill. I thank the Subcommittee for its dedicated support to the men and women who currently serve, and those who have served, our great nation.

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Chapter 3 : Trump signed the "Forever GI Bill."™ Here are 11 things you should know.

Opt Out of Sharing VA Education Benefits Information The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act (also called the "Forever GI Bill") requires us to share certain information about your eligibility and benefits with schools, unless you ask us not to.

The main benefits include: The amount received depends on the number of months the veteran served on active-duty service on or after September 11, Veterans attending schools online or through correspondence will not receive this benefit if their entire enrollment is in distance or online learning. The veteran will be entitled to the stipend if at least one course is classified as "in-residence". International education programs outside the US are eligible. An annual stipend to cover other education costs e. The new law, often referred to as GI Bill 2. In addition the so-called GI Bill 2. The bulk of these changes go into effect August and October Completion of a secondary school diploma or its equivalent before applying for such assistance. Active duty service [Note 1] on or after September 11, of 36 months for full benefits, and 3 to 35 months for partial benefits. However, the amount of time of enlistment used to fulfill the College Loan Repayment Program requirement typically the first three to four years of service will not count toward the time of service required to qualify for the new benefits. Servicemembers with six years of active duty service, with a commitment to serve an additional four years, may transfer benefits to their spouse. Servicemembers with over ten years of service may transfer benefits to a child. The amount of military aid a student receives for a college education does not defer eligibility or reduce the amount of student aid that student could receive from the four federal grant programs - Pell, SMART, ACG, and TEACH - and many of the state student aid programs. Educational assistance for service in the Armed Forces after September 11, - Entitlement. This section prescribes multiple categories of veterans entitled to educational benefits under this Act. In general, to qualify, veterans must have served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least some period of active duty time served on or after September 11, Educational assistance - Duration. Veterans are entitled to receive educational assistance for a period of time that is linked to their entitlement, as measured by Section above. In general, veterans may not receive assistance for more than a total of 36 months, which equals 4 academic years. Educational assistance - Payment and amount. In general, veterans may receive monetary assistance to pursue an approved program of education as follows: This Section prescribes the timing of such payments and revised payment guidelines related to less-than-half-time education, apprenticeships, on-the-job-training, correspondence school, and flight training. Licensure and certification tests. Public-private contributions for additional educational assistance. Establishes a system where private colleges and universities can voluntarily participate in the program. Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members. Time limitation for use of and eligibility for entitlement. Veterans have 15 years as measured under the provisions of this Section to use their educational entitlement. Bar to duplication of educational assistance benefits. Veterans who receive educational benefits under this Act may not receive concurrent assistance under another similar program; instead, veterans must elect one program over another. Allocation of administration and costs. Controversy[edit] Although the bill is widely considered an important piece of legislation, some flaws in the new GI Bill have been noted. The additional contribution must be made while still on active duty. Although the original Bill did not include National Guard state activation, effective October 1, , the law was expanded to "include Active Service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U. After earlier passing the House and Senate in different forms in May mainly with support from Democrats and a few Republicans, a bipartisan deal was brokered and the bill passed as an amendment to H. On June 19, the veteran education assistance benefits, along with week unemployment benefit extension, passed as an amendment with a vote of

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Chapter 4 : No expiration date for "beefed up"™ GI Bill benefits under new proposal

Veterans and Dependents Please Join Us For a Webinar Explaining Provisions of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act - Forever GI Bill July 24, AM Join us on July 26 or August 9 at 2pm ET.

This enables us to assist our students with VA and educational problems in a more effective manner. We are here to provide assistance in contacting other VA sources and to provide guidance in solving any problems they might encounter at OCCC. Our student population, claiming educational benefits, consist of active duty service persons Chapter 30 Active Duty , active duty veterans Chapter 30, Chapter 32 , veterans on the VA Vocational Rehabilitation program, National Guard and Reserve personnel Chapter , and those who are eligible to receive benefits under the Survivors and Dependents Assistance Program Chapter Service to the student is our main objective. It is our goal to assist students in receiving all VA educational money they are entitled to and to receiving it in the most timely manner. You get this form from your Unit. If you are getting benefits through the VA Vocational Rehabilitation program, we must have VA form from your counseling psychologist. Department of Veterans Affairs: Some states have different state benefits available to veterans, such as hunting and fishing license; car tags at a reduced cost; tuition waivers at state schools; etc. You should contact your State Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain information. Unemployment benefits for recently discharged veterans also varies from state to state. Contact your State Employment Service for additional information. The VA has counseling and assessment available to you through Vocational Rehabilitation Division at your local regional office. You can request counseling through your local regional office through the toll-free number, Running out of time trying to find a part-time job? The best part is that it is tax-free! If you are interested, contact your local regional office through the number for more information. If you want to find out if you have eligibility to benefits for a VA guaranteed home loan. Complete a VA form and return to your local regional office along with a copy of your DD For additional information or the application form, call Chapter 30 and Chapter trainees remember Direct Deposit became available to you for your educational assistance payments. If you are interested in signing up for direct deposit, you can sign up by mail or by telephone. VA will need information which can be obtained from one of your personal checks so have it handy when you call us to sign up. Box , Muskogee, OK If you have recently been notified you have had an overpayment created due to a change in your enrollment, you can request a waiver of the indebtedness via the Regional Processing Office Muskogee Waiver E-mail address at suppcurt vba. In May , the "Access America for Students" web site went live. It can be reached at <http://> The site is out to change the way that government does business with students continuing or planning to continue their education after high school. By opening up a private and secure Internet gateway to financial aid and other services students need. This provides links to U. Access America plans to roll out a wide range of pilot programs gradually over the next 2 years as tools and processes are tested and validated. By , all program components should be available to schools that are ready to use them. News for active duty military who are planning on separating from the military. In the past, military personnel had to wait until after they separated to file a claim for service-connected disability compensation through the U. Department of Veterans Affairs VA. The waiting time for the processing of claims can take from 4 to 6 months. Under a new pre-discharge program, soldiers will now be able to submit a claim days prior to their separation or retirement date. This will provide the VA with ample time to schedule a comprehensive medical exam, rate the claim, and review the proposed rating with the service member prior to their release from active duty.

Chapter 5 : Thomas L. Bush | House Committee on Veterans Affairs

Officially titled the "Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of The name change. The proposal also would permanently change the GI Bill program's name to just "GI.

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Chapter 6 : A New Lifetime GI Bill Is Likely To Become Law. Here's How It Will Impact Vets

Do not use this form to apply for a change of program or place of training for Veterans' education assistance based on your own service (chapters 30, 32, 33, , or). To apply for a change of program or place of training for Veterans' education assistance benefits.