



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington DC 20420

January 1, 2015

Dear School Certifying Official,

In August 2014, President Obama signed the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act") into law. Section 702 of the Choice Act requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to disapprove programs of education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB – AD) at public institutions of higher learning if the school charges qualifying Veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students for terms beginning after July 1, 2015. It is important for schools to understand that VA must disapprove programs of education for **everyone** training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and MGIB – AD, if resident charges are not offered to all "covered individuals." Almost all States and territories have informed VA that their public institutions of higher learning intend to comply with the requirements of section 702, and none have informed VA that they do not intend to comply. To date, VA has confirmed only **one** state to be fully in compliance, Texas; therefore, the guidance in this advisory does not apply to schools in Texas.

In order to ensure that your programs remain approved for Post-9/11 GI Bill and MGIB – AD benefits, and to allow time for states to affect legislative/policy changes, it is imperative that public institutions of higher learning, other than those in Texas, adhere to the following procedures when certifying enrollment in terms beginning after July 1, 2015.

- Post 9/11 GI Bill: Insert a zero dollar figure "\$0" for tuition and fee charges in VA-ONCE when submitting enrollments prior to the beginning of the term. You may submit the actual charges on an amended enrollment certification **only after VA has verified** that your school's tuition and fee policies are compliant with section 702 **or** if a waiver is granted.
- MGIB – AD: Tuition and fees are only submitted if a Veteran is enrolled at less than one-half time. You should **not** submit enrollment certifications for MGIB – AD Veterans attending at less than one-half time **until VA has verified** that your school's tuition and fee policies are compliant with section 702 or if a waiver is granted. MGIB – AD students attending at half-time or greater, as well as students on active duty, should be certified normally.

Your adherence to these procedures is vitally important in ensuring that our Nation's Veterans and their qualifying dependents continue to be eligible to receive their hard earned VA education benefits. The submission of tuition and fee charges in excess of the resident rate for a covered individual could lead to the immediate disapproval of the affected program of education for **all** Post-9/11 GI Bill and MGIB – AD beneficiaries.

Information on additional schools and states found to be in compliance with the requirements of section 702 will be posted to the GI Bill website (www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/), and information will also be disseminated to impacted schools through the Education Liaison Representative and State Approving Agency of Jurisdiction.

Thank you for your time, assistance, and continued support of America's Veterans and their dependents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Worley II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "R".

Robert M. Worley II
Director, Education Service