Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance of 2017
“Forever GI Bill”

August 28, 2018

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Overview

Since the passing of the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, otherwise known as the Forever GI Bill, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has taken action to successfully implement each of its 34 provisions. Actions taken vary from provision to provision. This briefing is intended to provide updates on the most current actions and dive deeper in specific topics of interest.

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Topics of Interest

The Forever GI Bill focuses on enhancing the Post-9/11 GI Bill for servicemembers, Veterans, and dependents. The Forever GI Bill (FGIB) ranges from technical fixes to new innovative programs to expanding benefits.

Topics of Interest include:

- ✓ Section 304- Annual Reporting Fees Increased
- ✓ Section 305- Training Requirements for SCOs
- ✓ Section 308- Entitlement Information for Schools
- ✓ Section 501-Removes Exemption from DoD Basic Housing Allowance (BHA) Reduction, and
- ✓ Section 107- Calculate Housing Based on Location of the Campus where the Majority of Classes

Section 304

Annual Reporting Fees Increased- August 1, 2018

- Increases the annual fee to $15; based on student count from Jan 1 to Dec 31
- Prohibits an educational institution with 100 or more enrollees from merging with the amounts in the general fund
- Calendar Year 2018 Fee paid in 2019
- Compliance Procedures:
  - ✓ The surveyor will interview the primary School Certifying Official (SCO) and confirm how the school utilizes the Reporting Fee
  - ✓ Schools should document how they use the Reporting Fee (a formal ledger, receipts to/from a SCO training conference, invoices for equipment for the school's Veteran Center, formal documentation the school uses the Reporting Fees as part the SCOs salary, etc.).

❖ Finalizing Communications Plan to inform about increased fee and limitation

Section 305

Training Requirements for SCOs – August 1, 2018

- Educational Institutions must ensure that their school certifying official(s) meet the training requirements developed by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in consultation with the State Approving Agencies (SAA).
  - ✓ Required for an educational institution that has enrolled 20 or more individuals using VA educational assistance
  - ✓ Required for "new" SCOs on or after August 1, 2018
  - ✓ Required for "existing" SCOs August 1, 2019
  - ✓ Required annually to be compliant with the law
    - ❖ The current list of covered institutions can be found on the GI Bill Website under School Training Resources

Section 305- Training

- Consists of concepts and procedures necessary for a SCO to successfully perform the basic functions of his/her duties
- Provided as Multiple Online Modules
- Requires ELR assistance for registration process
- Deadline reminders/notifications will be sent to SCOs by VA
- Automated email notification to Non-compliant SCOs of their impending loss of their ability to certify

❖ VA may disapprove any course of education offered by the educational institution if training requirements unmet

Section 305- Chart Breakdown

TYPE OF SCO	DEFINITION	TRAINING REQUIREMENT
“New” SCO	Individuals who begin work as a SCO on or after August 1, 2018	Beginning August 1, 2018, new SCOs will have 14 days from the date of designation as an SCO to complete ten virtual training modules (approximately 5 hours of training)
“Existing” SCO	SCOs continuing employment on or after August 1, 2019	Beginning August 1, 2019, existing SCOs will have one year to complete annual training requirements (to be defined)
“Read-only” SCO	An individual at an institution with permission to access read-only or inquiry only information	Read-only SCOs have no training requirements, because they are not approved to submit enrollment information to VA

Section 308

Entitlement Information for Schools – August 1, 2018

- Requires VA to make available to educational institutions information about the amount of educational assistance to which a Veteran or other individual is entitled
- A Veteran or other individual may elect to "opt-out" of providing the information

- *Finalizing IT requirements*
- *Electronic opt-out through vets.gov available*
- *Amending applications for beneficiaries to request to "opt-out"*

Section 308- VA-ONCE “Opt –Out”

https://10.205.5.32/ - VA-ONCE VA Data - Internet Explorer

VA ONCE administrator

Print Student

VA Data

Name: CLAVEN, CLIFF COOL
SSN: [redacted]
File/Payee: [redacted]

Program: MA-HISTORY
Chapter: 30
Training Type: Graduate

2

Bio | Certs | VA Data | Log | History

Student has opted out. No VA Data will be displayed for this student

Select
Admin
Reports
Logout

Tasks | Margin | Help

100%

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Section 308- VA-ONCE "Opt-In"

https://10.205.5.28/ - VA-ONCE VA Data - Internet Explorer

VA ONCE administrator

Print | Student

VA Data

Name: WYANT, TRENTON
SSN:
File/Payee:

Program: AVS, BST
Chapter: 1606
Training Type: Undergraduate

5M

Bio | Certs | VA Data | Log | History

Select | Admin | Reports | Logout

Full Name:
File/Payee# :
Delimiting Date: 20270925
Remaining Entitlement Months as of No Pay Date: 26
Remaining Entitlement Days as of No Pay Date: 6
Chapter: 1606
Current Facility Code: 11516635
BDN Master Record Status: TERMINATED

Begin Date	End Date	Training Type	Training Time	Monthly Rate	Current Award
1/13/2014	5/10/2014	UNDERGRADUATE	FULL	$712.00	CURRENT

The information shown above is only for Chapter 30, Chapter 1606, and Chapter 1607. The type of training must be payable in our Benefits Delivery Network (BDN) system. Any payment that is generated outside of BDN (for example: Flight, On the Job Training, Apprenticeship, or Correspondence) will not be displayed above. Please see the help text questions for more information on the VA Data.

Tasks | Margin | Help

100%

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Section 501

Removes Exemption from DoD Basic Housing Allowance (BHA) Reduction- January 1, 2018

- Creates two categories of individuals with **separate** rate tables –
  - Individuals that begin using Post -9/11 GI Bill before January 1, 2018 (VA Rate – uncapped)
  - Individuals that begin using Post-9/11 GI Bill on or after January 1, 2018 (DOD Rate – capped)

❖ *Rate Tables available in WEAMS*

Section 107

Calculate housing based on location of the campus where individual attends the majority of classes – August 1, 2018

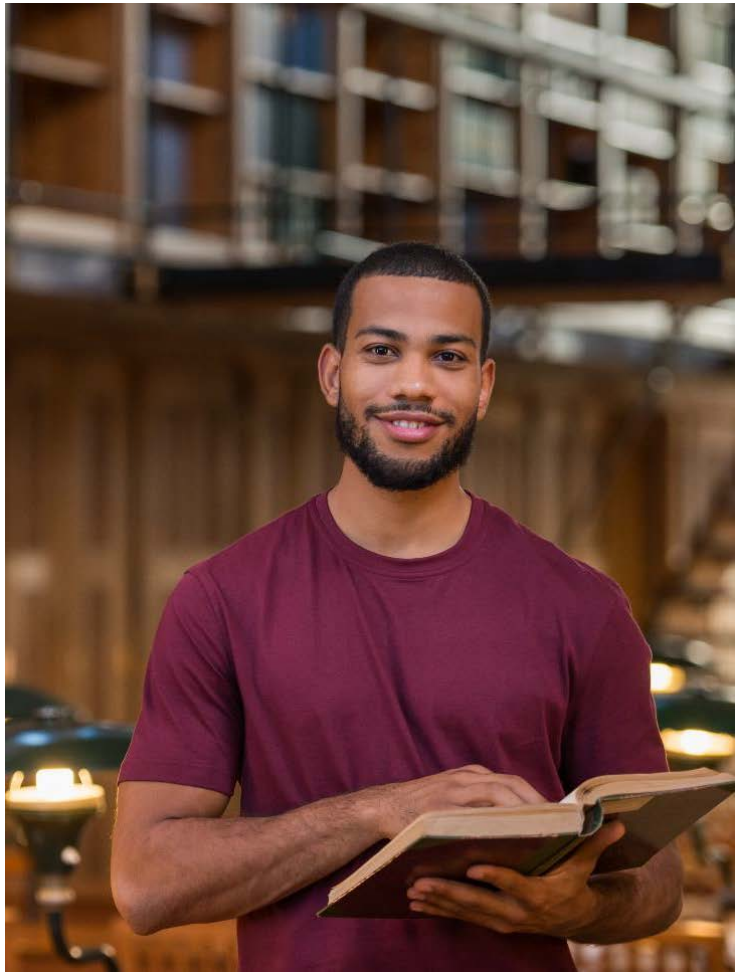
- Requires VA to calculate the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on the location of the campus where the individual **physically attends** the **majority** of their classes
- MHA will no longer be based on the "Institution" location of the school where the individual is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

Section 107: Current Enrollment Submission Process

- Schools submit the student's enrollment information through VA-ONCE.
- MHA is calculated using the zip code attached to the facility code where the student is enrolled.
- In a single term, if the student physically attends multiple schools or a school with multiple facility codes (a "guest school" relationship), the facility code with the higher MHA is used.

Section 107: 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.



Section 107: The Definition of “Campus”

“Campus” has been interpreted to mean any place an individual spends the majority of their time training for their program of education.

This definition of campus includes:

- The individual campus of a school where the student is taking classes (i.e. the school’s science center, humanities building, or athletic center)
- The physical location where a student is learning in a study abroad program
- Any internship, externship, practicum or student teaching site
- There is no change in how the MHA is paid for On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship sites at this time.

Section 107: Updates to VA Systems

- The systems being updated as a result of Section 107 are:
  - ✓ VA Online Certification Enrollment (VA-ONCE)
  - ✓ Long Term Solution (LTS)
    - ✓ Pending Completion
  - ✓ Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS)
  - ✓ GI Bill Comparison Tool
    - ✓ Available Now

Section 107: Update to Certification Submission

- It is no longer mandatory to hold enrollment certifications.
- If you do submit now, please be aware you may need to amend the certification later if the student was taking classes in a zip code other than the location associated with the enrollment certification.
- We will update this announcement as more information becomes available.

Section 107: 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.**

Current View in VA-ONCE

VA-ONCE

Cert Complete Submit

Name:
SSN:
File/Payee:

Certs
Program: BA-INTRELS
Chapter: 33
Training Type: Undergraduate

Bio | Certs | VA Data | Log | History

Select | Admin | Reports | Logout

All | All | All | Begin Date Range to End Date Range | Filter
Term Name | Status | Facility Code

	Term Name	Info	Begin Date	End Date	Res	Dist	R/D	Clock	LDA/Eff Date	Facility Code	Cert ID
2										21212121	
3			10/27/2014	11/23/2014	3	0				21212121	
5E			01/12/2011	03/11/2011	3	6				21212121	17298977

Edit Enrollment — Save | Cancel

Facility: 21212121 Trng Type: IHL_UNDERGRAD Prgrm: BA-INTRELS Prior Credit: 2

Term Name | Begin Date* | End Date* | Res | Dist* | R/D | Clock | T & F*

Advance Pay | Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)

LDA/Eff Date

Remarks — Modify Remarks List

```
                    Enrollment Certification VA-ONCE ver. P053 - Chapter 33

                                                        VA File No.
                                                        XXXXXXXXX

Student Information
 LAST NAME, FIRST NAME

Type of Training
 Undergraduate

Name of Program
 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-BA;021;095

Credit for Prior Training
 NONE

Enroll    Dates     Res    Dist   R/D    Clock T&F        Yellow Ribbon Program
Begin     End       Hrs    Hrs    Hrs    Hrs   Amt        Amount      Out St Chg

10/27/14 11/23/14   3                            $2,145.00

Remarks
 10/27/14-11/23/14: UPSTREAM === TEST CASE - DO NOT PROCESS!!! ===

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

Date Signed     School Information
 DRAFT          EC SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL NAME
                VA-ONCE UNIVERSITY IHL
                ST ADDRESS
                CITY, STATE ZIP CODE
                Phone #
                Facility Code


VA Form 22-1999
Mar 2009 OMB Control No. 2900-0073
```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New View in VA-ONCE

Cert Complete Submit

VA ONCE

VAonce04
2-2-2222-22

Name:
SSN:
File/Payee:

Certs

Program: BA ARTS
Chapter: 33
Training Type: Undergraduat

Bio | Certs | VA Data | Log | H

Select | Admin | Reports | Logout

All | All | All | Begin Date Range to
Term Name | Status | Facility Code | Begin Date Range

	Term Name	Info	Begin Date	End Date	Res	Dist	R/D	Clock	LDA/Eff Date
2									
2									
5E	SUM 18		05/05/2018	08/05/2018	0	0			03/15/2018
5E	SPR18		01/03/2018	04/25/2018	0	0			
5E	FALL 2017		08/15/2017	12/15/2017	0	0			

Hours by Zip Code

Edit Enrollment

Facility: 22222222 Trng Type: IHL_UNDERGRAD Prgrm: BA ARTS

Term Name | Begin Date* | End Date* | Res | Dist* | R/D | Clock | T & F*

Advance Pay

Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)

LDA/EFF Date

Remarks

Tasks | Margin | Help

New | Remove | Hours by Zip Code | Show all | Done

	Zip Code	Res	Dist	R/D	Clock	Submitted Date
2	20421	3	0	0	0	
2	20420	9	0			

8/18/2018 | 12/12/201 | 12 | 0 | | | VIRTUAL Record from Cert Page
Begin Date | End Date | Res | Dist | R/D | Clock

Edit Hours by Zip Code | Save | Cancel

8/18/2018 | 12/12/2018 | 20421 (SOUT | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0
Begin Date | End Date | Zip Code | Res | Distance* | R/D | Clock

```
Type of Training
 Undergraduate

Name of Program
 PERFORMING ARTS - BA;021;096

Credit for Prior Training
 PENDING

Enroll    Dates     Res   Dist  R/D   Clock T&F        Yellow     Out of State
Begin     End                           Amt            Ribbon     Charge

08/18/18 12/12/18 12     0                $1,200.00
                  Res    Dist  R/D   Clock     Zip Code
                   9      0                     20420
                   3      0     0     0         20421
```

Payment Scenario #1: Equal Credits at Different Campuses

- A student is taking **6 credits** at a school's main campus in New York City (Zip Code:10001 – **MHA Rate: $3,669.00**).
- The student is taking **6 credits** at the school's science campus on Staten Island (Zip Code: 10309 – **MHA Rate: $2,724.00**).
- When a student is taking an equal number of classes at two locations, VA will pay the higher MHA rate.

This student would be paid at the MHA rate of the main campus: $3,669.00.

Payment Scenario #2: Change in Credits

- A student is taking **9 credits** at a school's main campus in New York City (Zip Code:10001 – **MHA Rate: $3,669.00**).
- The student is taking **9 credits** at the science campus on Staten Island (Zip Code: 10309 – **MHA Rate: $2,724.00**).
- **This student would be paid the MHA rate of the main campus: $3,669.00.**
- Midterm the student drops **3 credits** from the main campus.

Effective the date of reduction, the student would be paid the MHA rate of the Staten Island campus: $2,724.00.

NOTE: There are no changes in processing rules or the establishment of debts. If a school does not notify VA of a reduction until the end of term, VA will retroactively correct the student's account and establish all debts. (E.g. If the student above reduced one month prior to the end of the term, but the school failed to report the drop until the end of term, then a MHA debt of $945.00 would be made for the student).

Payment Scenario #3: Different Campuses + Online Classes

- A student is taking **3 credits** at a school's main campus in New York City (Zip Code:10001 – **MHA Rate: $3,669.00**).
- The student is taking **3 credits** at the school's science campus on Staten Island (Zip Code: 10309 – **MHA Rate: $2,724.00**).
- The student is taking **6 credits** online (**MHA Rate: $840.50**).

NOTE: MHA rate is based on physical attendance. If a student is taking at least one credit in-residence, they will receive the in-residence MHA rate and not the online training MHA rate.

This student would be paid at the MHA rate of the main campus: $3,669.00.

Payment Scenario #4: Equivalent Credit Hours

- A student is taking **7 credits** at a school's main campus in New York City (Zip Code:10001 – **MHA Rate: $3,669.00**) during the Fall Semester (8/20/18-12/12/18).
- The student is taking a "mini-mester" **4 credits** at the school's science campus on Staten Island (Zip Code: 10309 – **MHA Rate: $2,724.00**) running from 9/17/18 – 10/17/18.

Period Paid	Rate of Pursuit	MHA Amount Due to Student
8/1/18 - 9/16/18	.60	**2,201.40** (3669.00 * .60)
9/17/18 – 10/17/18	Full	**2724.00**
10/18/18 – 12/12/18	.60	**2,201.40** (3669.00 * .60)

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Payment Scenario #5: Internship/Practicum/Student Teaching

- The student is taking **3 credits** at a school's main campus in San Francisco (Zip Code: 94016 – **MHA Rate: $4,329.00**)
- The student is **student teaching 40 hours per week** (how the School Certifying Official certifies the course) in Fresno (Zip Code: 93650 – **MHA Rate: $1,500.00**)

The student would be paid at the MHA rate of the student teaching site: $1,500.00

Payment Scenario #6: Overseas Internships and Study Abroad

- A student is taking **9 credits** online (MHA Rate: $840.50).
- The student is taking a mandatory **3 credit** study abroad course in Paris (MHA Rate for foreign schools: $1,681.00).
- All of this student's time is physically spent in a foreign country.

This student would be paid at the MHA rate for foreign schools: $1,681.00.

Payment Scenario #7: Truck Driving and Flight Schools

- A student is attending VA-ONCE Truck Driving School in Fresno (Zip Code: 93650 – **MHA Rate: $1,500.00**).
- The student is training for 25 hours per week.
- The student trains across many zip codes including San Francisco (Zip Code: 94016 – **MHA Rate: $4,329.00**).

NOTE: When a student's course of study involves travel as part of the training, VA will continue to use the zip code of the facility's main campus to establish the student's MHA rate.

This student would be paid at the MHA rate for Fresno: $1,500.00.

Payment Scenario #8: Stand-alone Non-College Degree Facility

- A student is attending VA-ONCE Mechanic Training Institute.
- VA-ONCE Mechanic Training Institute is located in Fresno and a student spends 15 clock hours per week here receiving classroom instruction (Zip Code: 93650 – **MHA Rate: $1,500.00**).
- The student also trains for 10 hours per week at VA-ONCE Mechanic Training Institute garage (working hands on with cars) which is located in San Francisco (Zip Code: 94016 – **MHA Rate: $4,329.00**).

This student would be paid at the MHA rate for Fresno: $1,500.00.

Thank You

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Resources

- GI Bill Webpage – Colmery Act
- School Official's Handbook
- VA-ONCE quick reference user guide
- Tips for Getting Started on VA-ONCE handout
- List of Covered Institutions

Resources

https://goo.gl/MLx4id

https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp