



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Forever GI Bill

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The President signed into law the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” which will bring significant changes to Veterans education benefits. The law is named after the American Legion national commander who wrote the original GI Bill language in

1944, and will allow more Veterans to use the GI Bill and more time to use it. Some new provisions that go into effect immediately include: **The 15-year time limitation** for using Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is eliminated for Veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013, and qualifying dependents

(Fry children who became eligible on or after January 1, 2013 and all Fry spouses).

Reservists who had eligibility under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) and lost it due to the program sunset provision will have that service credited toward the Post-9/11 GI Bill program. Certain work-

study is permanently authorized; previously it had to be re-approved by Congress every few years. **The VetSuccess** on Campus program will be available to students across the country. VA will help Veterans to more clearly identify schools that offer them priority enrollment.

RESERVIST & CONSOLIDATION OF BENEFITS

The time that a Reservist was ordered to active duty to receive authorized medical care, be medically evaluated for disability, or complete a Department of Defense (DoD) health care study on or after September 11, 2001, now counts as active duty toward eligibility for the

Post-9/11 GI Bill program. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after **August 1, 2018**.

Consolidation of Benefit Levels

Eliminates the 40-percent benefit level and expands the 60-percent

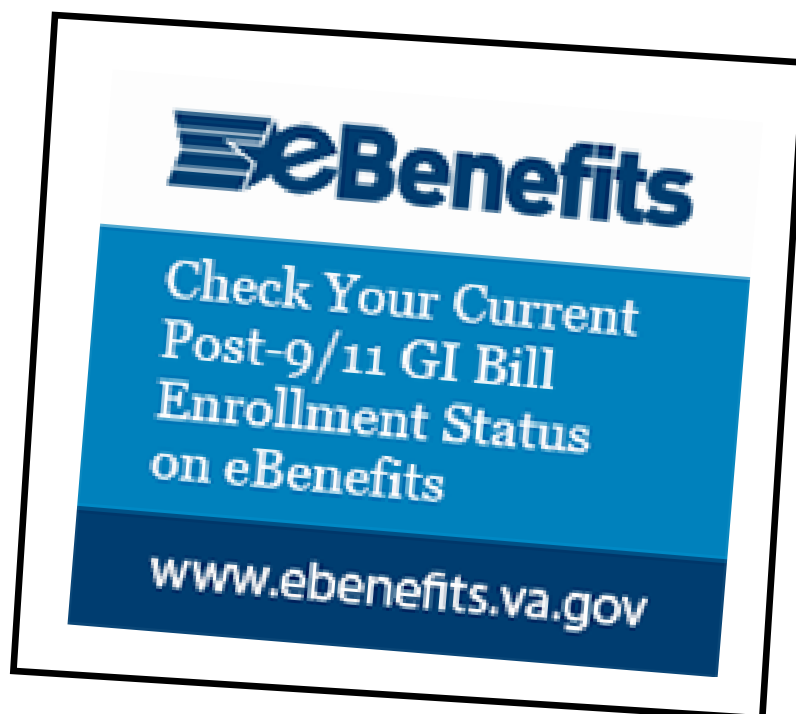
benefit level under the Post 9/11 GI Bill program. **An individual** with aggregate service of 90 days but less than six months of active-duty service (excluding entry and skill training) now qualifies at the 50-percent benefit level.

An individual with ag-

gregate service of at least six months but less than eighteen months of active-duty service (excluding entry and skill training) now qualifies at the 60-percent benefit level. This removes the 40-percent benefit level. This section will take effect on **August 1, 2020**.

Top 6 Facts for Forever GI Bill

- ♦ No more delimiting date!
 - Effective immediately
- ♦ Purple Heart Equity
 - full benefits no matter time in service
- ♦ Reserve benefits expanded
- ♦ Yellow Ribbon expanded
- ♦ Lost benefits restored
 - Benefits lost through school closings will be restored
- ♦ Enhanced Survivor benefits



BAH & STEM Programs

Expanded benefits for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs. The VA will provide up to nine months of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to certain eligible individuals who: have or will soon exhaust entitlement of Post-9/11 GI Bill program, apply for assistance, and are enrolled in a program of education leading to a post-secondary degree that, in accordance with the guidelines of the applicable regional or national accrediting agency, requires more than the standard 128 semester (or 192 quarter) credit hours for completion in a standard, undergraduate college degree in biolog-

ical or biomedical science; physical science; science technologies or technicians; computer and information science and support services; mathematics or statistics; engineering; engineering technologies or an engineering-related field; a health profession or related program; a medical residency program; an agriculture science program or natural resources science program; or other subjects and fields identified by VA as meeting national needs. has completed at least 60 standard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours in a field listed above, or has earned a post-

secondary degree in one of these fields and is enrolled in a program of education leading to a teaching certification.

The law requires the monthly housing allowance (MHA) under the Post-9/11 GI Bill program to be calculated based on the zip code of the campus where the student physically attends the majority of classes, rather than the location of the institution of higher learning where the student is enrolled. This applies to the first enrollment in an educational program on or after August 1, 2018.

For more
information visit
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