



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



**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

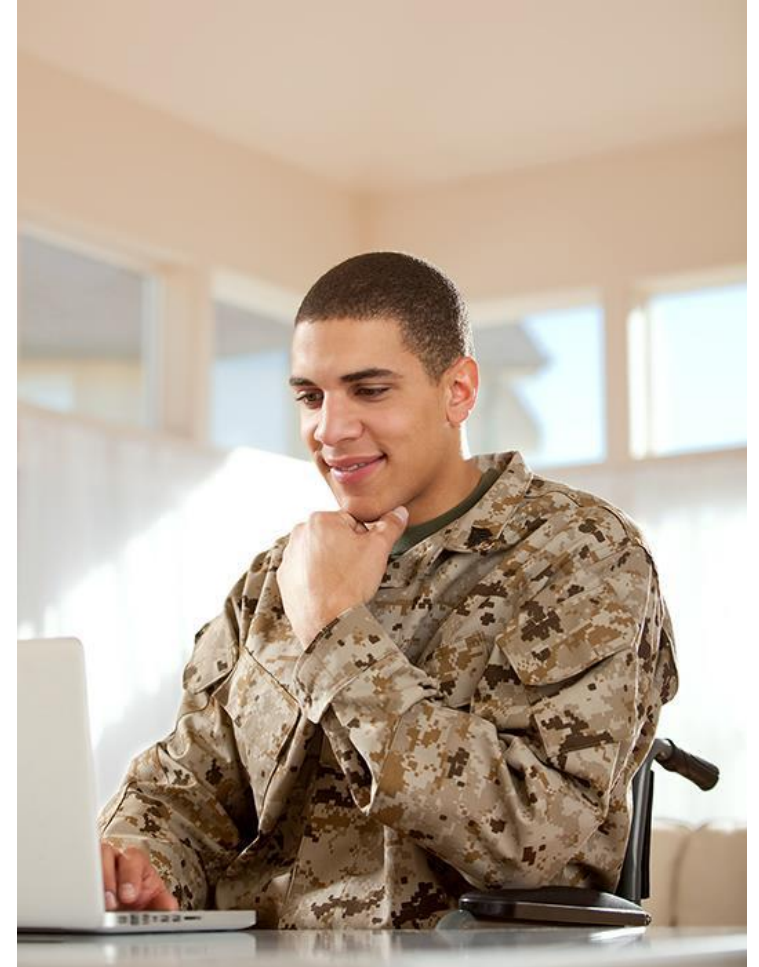
# What is the Forever GI Bill?

Since 1944, the GI Bill® has represented this nation's commitment to Veterans.

Last August, Congress added 34 provisions to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These provisions make up the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, or the "Forever GI Bill."

**The Forever GI Bill expands and enhances Veterans' education benefits.**

The updates in this law benefit both Veterans and their families, updating the benefits they have earned.



# How Long Will My Post-9/11 GI Bill® Benefits Last?

*The key date is January 1, 2013*

If any of the following apply to you **on or after January 1, 2013**, your GI Bill benefits do not have a time limit:



You left active duty and that discharge was from a period of at least 90 days.



You are a child or spouse who became eligible for a Fry Scholarship.



You are a spouse who received a transfer of entitlement (TOE).

If any of the following apply to you **before January 1, 2013**, your GI Bill benefits last for 15 years after your release from service:

- You left active duty;
- You are a child who became eligible for a Fry Scholarship; or,
- You are a spouse who received a transfer of entitlement (TOE).

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

Note: All Fry Spouses no longer have a time limit.

# What Changes Impact Me Now?

VA started implementing many provisions in August 2017. Some highlights include:

- ▶ **School Closure Eligibility Restoration.** VA is now authorized to restore benefits to Veterans affected by school closures or some program disapprovals.
  - ▶ Restore entitlement used during the term when the school closed
  - ▶ Can continue receiving housing payments until the original end of the term or for 120 days (whichever occurs sooner)
- ▶ **Priority Enrollment.** You'll be able to find out if the school you want to attend offers priority enrollment for Veterans with the GI Bill Comparison Tool. Visit the Vets.gov website to begin your search.
- ▶ **Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Eligibility Credited Toward Post-9/11 GI Bill Program.** The individuals who lost their eligibility to REAP may apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA sent letters with instructions to the eligible individuals.



# What Changes Impact Me Soon?

Effective August 1, 2018

VA will continue to roll out additional provisions over the next four years. Some highlights include:

- ▶ **Changes to Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program.** The new law increases the amount of educational assistance payable under DEA but decreases the amount of entitlement that new eligible individuals will receive from 45 months to 36 months.
- ▶ **Changes to Transfer of Benefits (TEB).** Veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies. If the Veteran dies, a dependent who received transferred entitlement can now designate a new eligible dependent of the Veteran to transfer any of the dependent's remaining entitlement.
- ▶ **GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance** Housing will be paid based on the "campus" where the student attends the majority of classes.



# What Changes Impact Me Soon?

Effective August 1, 2018

- ▶ **Active Duty and Housing Allowance** Those leaving active duty are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill housing allowance day of discharge
- ▶ **Purple Heart Recipients** May receive full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits if served on or after September 11, 2001
- ▶ **Yellow Ribbon for Purple Heart and Fry Recipients** May use beginning August 1, 2018
- ▶ **Informing Schools About Beneficiary Entitlement** VA will share entitlement information with schools, students can opt out
- ▶ **Less Entitlement Charged for License and Certification** No longer taking an entire month of benefits



# VET TEC

*Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses*



## VET TEC's Five Areas of High Tech Training

COMPUTER  
SOFTWARE



INFORMATION SCIENCE



COMPUTER  
PROGRAMMING



MEDIA  
APPLICATION



DATA PROCESSING

VET TEC is designed to  
give Veterans an edge  
in the high tech job  
market.

VA will launch the  
VET TEC pilot in

**2019!**



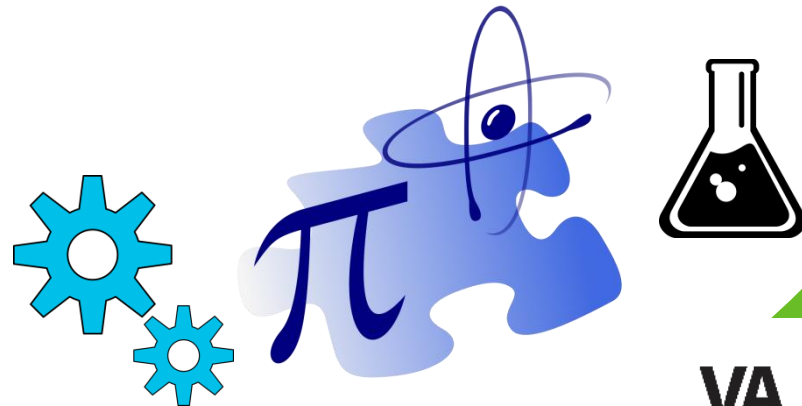
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# ...Also in 2019

- ▶ **Nine extra months of benefits for STEM Programs**
  - ▶ Currently enrolled in a STEM program
  - ▶ Completed 60 standard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours
  - ▶ Additional benefits can't be transferred to dependents
  - ▶ Priority is given to those entitled to 100% of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those who require the most credit hours





# Coming August 1, 2020

## Consolidation of Benefit Levels

Eliminates 40% level, expands 60%

# Coming August 1, 2022

Yellow Ribbon Extension to Active Duty Servicemembers



# Where Can I Find More Info on Forever GI Bill?



For more information go to [www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp)

Our Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST)

Join the conversation on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/gibillEducation](http://www.facebook.com/gibillEducation)

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