

### December 3, 2014 VA Webinar

VA has posted the slides from the December 3, 2014 webinar. Please go to this link to view:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/presentations/December%202014%20-%20Webinar-2.pdf>

Note especially the Questions and Answers beginning on page 35.

### Public Law 113-146, Section 702 (Choice Act) Chapter 33 and 30

A letter was recently sent to each School Certifying Official of public institutions regarding implementation of Section 702 of the Choice Act which requires public institutions to charge a covered individual to include certain veterans and qualifying dependents in-state tuition and fees under the provisions of the law. This law only affects enrollment certifications for periods of enrollment that begins on or after July 1, 2015 at public institutions for Chapter 33 and Chapter 30 eligible persons discharged within the last three years. The January 1, 2015 letter states that the VA must verify that the public institution tuition and fees are compliant with Section 702.

This office is currently seeking information concerning verification of compliance in accordance with Section 702. As soon as we receive this information, we will inform the public institutions. In the meantime, public institutions should implement procedures to be able to be in compliance with Section 702 by July 1, 2015 in order that all eligible individuals continue to receive their veteran's education benefits.

Be advised that legislation has been proposed in the Pennsylvania State Legislature that may expand on the Choice Act. We will keep you informed of the progress of this legislation.

### VA-ONCE Addition of VBA Standard Remark

The following advisory was received in our office and is provided for your information:

“In VA-ONCE, once a term is terminated, no changes can be made to that term. This is problematic when a School Certifying Official (SCO) finds out after the fact that there were reductions prior to the termination.

In order to address this issue, the SCO should submit a new Enrollment Certification for the same period. The Enrollment Certification should contain the following remark – **“Correcting previously terminated enrollment. Notice of Change in Student Status(s) to follow.”**

This remark has been added to the list of VBA Standard Remarks in VA-ONCE.

The SCO should immediately submit all changes to that term so that all documents are received in The Image Management System (TIMS) concurrently.

If you have questions regarding this System Advisory, please contact the VA-ONCE mailbox: [VAVBAWAS/CO/VAONCE](mailto:VAVBAWAS/CO/VAONCE).”

### **eBenefits**

On January 25, 2015, the eBenefits web portal was updated with a new look. The new web portal makes access to eBenefits easier than ever. This is a reminder that each and every one of your students should have an eBenefits login and password for a premium account. Students should follow the simple directions on the eBenefits web site ([www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)) to get their login and password. Chapter 33 (Post 9/11 G I Bill) can access their percentage of benefit, entitlement remaining and their delimiting date on the Post 9/11 link. There are over 55 self-service capabilities for veterans, service members, and family members. Again, every one of your students should have a premium login and password for eBenefits.

### **VA-ONCE Remarks – Top 10 No-No’s, or What NOT to Send**

VA continues to receive VA-ONCE enrollment certifications, amendments, adjustments, and terminations with remarks that are not required to process the certification. Please visit the following link, print it out and refrain from submitting unnecessary remarks:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/vaonce/Tips\\_for\\_VA-ONCE\\_Remarks.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/vaonce/Tips_for_VA-ONCE_Remarks.pdf)

### **April 2015 Workshops**

As indicated in an earlier newsletter, this office will only be conducting three School Certifying Official Workshops in April 2015 on the following dates at the following locations:

April 15, 2015	PaTTAN Center	Harrisburg
April 22, 2015	CCAC, Boyce Campus	Monroeville
April 29, 2015	PaTTAN Center	King of Prussia

Please put these dates on your calendar. Additional details will be furnished in future newsletters.

### **Reminders!**

- GI Bill® Web Site is now [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)
- Student Hotline is 888-442-4551

- SCO Hotline is 855-225-1159 - School Certifying Officials Only (Do not give this number to students.)
- Call the SCO Hotline with issues before contacting your ELR.
- Best way to contact your ELR is by e-mail
- Debt Management Center e-mail for SCOs Only – [dmcedu.vbaspl@va.gov](mailto:dmcedu.vbaspl@va.gov) (Do not give this e-mail address to students)
- Debt Management Center e-mail for students – [dmc.ops@va.gov](mailto:dmc.ops@va.gov)
- Debt Management Center phone number, schools and students – 800-827-0648 (E-mail is the recommended way to contact the DMC)
- Version 4 of the SCO Handbook:  
[http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/job\\_aids/SCO\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/job_aids/SCO_Handbook.pdf)
- Version 7 of the VA-ONCE Quick Reference User Guide:  
[http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/vaonce/VAONCE\\_SCO\\_PowerPoint\\_v7.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/vaonce/VAONCE_SCO_PowerPoint_v7.pdf)
- VA-ONCE Passwords must be changed every 90 days even if you do not submit a cert.
- If Internet Explorer 10 or 11 do not work, try the Compatibility Mode. (You may need the help of the IT people at your school to set this up. VA-ONCE people are working hard to get VA-ONCE working correctly with 10 and 11.)
- Read the “News Flash” box before logging on to VA-ONCE.