

SCO WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP

The Veterans/Military Education Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Education conducted six School Certifying Official Workshops in April 2018. The workshops were a great success and we would like to thank all that participated.

As a result of all of the information that was disseminated and all of the questions that arose from the discussions, we wanted to put some clarifying information out for several of the sections of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017.

Section 107 Change in calculation of monthly housing stipend. Effective August 1, 2018, schools must start collecting/reporting zip codes for all locations where students will be doing their training. This includes other teaching sites, internships, student teaching, etc. Schools are advised not to submit certifications for any term that starts after August 1, 2018, for CH33 students that have training at a different zip code than what is approved. Once VA-ONCE is updated with the new zip code field you may certify. SCOs may submit certifications for the other chapters and also CH33 if the zip code will not be affected and all training is done on the school's current campus which is in the zip code currently in WEAMS.

Section 112 Elimination of Time Limitation The "Forever" GI Bill® is for Chapter 33 beneficiaries who left the service after Jan 1, 2013. Not everyone will qualify for the "Forever GI Bill®." Beneficiaries who qualify will no longer be held to the 15-year delimiting date.

Section 202 Duration of Educational Assistance under Survivors and Dependent Educational Assistance Program CH35 beneficiary's entitlement will change from 45 months to 36 months of benefits for new students entitled on or after August 1, 2018. Also, the new CH 35 rates effective October 1, 2018, are \$1,224 for full time, \$967 for $\frac{3}{4}$ time, and \$710 for $\frac{1}{2}$ time. Beneficiaries will continue to be eligible for the 5 months in high school or developmental/remedial benefits that are not assessed against their entitlement.

This is outlining just a very small portion of the information that was discussed at the workshops. Subsequent newsletter will highlight additional information. In the meantime, please continue to check the GI Bill® website for the latest information: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

VA Webinar

The VA recently sent an email announcing the next webinar. Below is the content of the email:

Based on the feedback and success of our webinar series, VA Education Service is continuing to hold interactive webinars to improve communication and pass along valuable information.

The next VA Education Service Webinar is scheduled for Tuesday June 12th. We will be holding one webinar session at 2 pm ET. We would like to extend invitations to all School Certifying Officials, Education Liaison Representatives, State Approving Agencies, and VetSuccess on Campus Counselors. Please pass this information to your contacts and ensure they have proper notice of the upcoming webinar.

Topics of this webinar will be Dual Certification, the Debt Management Center, Outcome Measures, School Certifying Official (SCO) Training Requirements, and an update to Harry W.

Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017 [Forever GI Bill]. Presentation slides will be available during the meeting. The audio is accessible via a separate phone line. We are no longer using Lync Meeting as our platform, we use a webinar software that allows us to have greater participating in one meeting. The information is as follows:

Date: June 12, 2018

Time: **2:00 pm EDT**

Adobe Meeting Link: <https://vbatraining.adobeconnect.com/eduwebinar/>

Audio Information: 1-800-767-1750; code 37639#

Previous webinars are available on our website at

www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/presentations.asp.

If you have any questions please contact the Approval, Compliance & Liaison Team at 223C.VBACO@VA.GOV.

If you have never attended an Adobe Connect meeting before:

Test your connection:

https://vbatraining.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

Get a quick overview: <http://www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect.html>

Share This Newsletter

This newsletter is being e-mailed to School Certifying Officials at each school. Please share this newsletter with all other Certifying Officials, the Bursar's or Comptroller's Office, Financial Aid Office and other interested individuals at your school. It is extremely important that the information in this newsletter receives the widest dissemination in order that veterans receive the G.I. Bill® and other educational benefits to which they are entitled.

"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 website at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill."