



UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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The Veterans First Act.

Improving Veterans Transition through Education and Employment Programs

Bipartisan bill enhances the Post-9/11 GI Bill and improves veterans' employment services

Servicemembers face unique needs when transitioning from active duty service to veteran status. Through the Post-9/11 GI Bill and various employment programs, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies help veterans get an education or a head-start on getting a job so they can make as big an impact after their service as they did during their service.

The *Veterans First Act* makes improvements to both the Post-9/11 GI Bill and VA's employment and transition programs to better fit the needs of a changing military and veteran population.

Title IV – Education

Educational Assistance and Vocational Rehabilitation

- Expands Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility to thousands of mobilized Reservists.
- Permits Fry Scholarship recipients to participate in the Yellow Ribbon program.
- Allows VA to reinstate benefits to veterans when their school permanently closes.
- Extends work study programs for students to help state veterans facilities.
- Requires educational institutions to report annually to VA on the academic progress of students for whom it receives payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Administration of Educational Assistance

- Requires VA to share with educational institutions the amount of education benefit entitlement that is available to student veterans.
- Changes the approval process for educational institutions so that educational institutions must meet the standards of state approving agencies.
- Requires the approval of non-accredited courses to go through state approving agencies and requires any program designed to prepare an individual for licensure or certification in a state to meet that state's criteria.
- Enhances programs that prepare veterans for careers through licensure and certification programs.
- Requires that VA conduct an annual compliance survey of educational institutions and training establishments.
- Requires VA to contract with a non-government entity to conduct a survey of individuals who are using or who have used VA educational benefits.

Title V – Employment and Transition

- Requires the Department of Labor to coordinate with state level agencies to help veterans find jobs.
- Requires non-governmental study of job counseling, training and placement services for veterans.