

PUBLIC LAW 111-377 MODIFICATIONS TO THE POST-9/11 GI BILL

Eligibility

- Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include Active Service performed by National Guard Members under title 32 U.S.C for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency (VA will begin paying benefits on October 1, 2011, and may be paid retroactively for enrollments beginning on August 1, 2009)

Benefit Level

- Individuals utilizing benefits while on active duty will be subject to the same benefit level determinations as veterans, based upon the amount of aggregate active duty service accrued (effective March 5, 2011)

Programs of Education

- Students can use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for non-college degree programs such as on-the-job training, flight school programs (other than a private pilot license), apprenticeship training, correspondence courses, and other programs offered at non-degree schools (effective October 1, 2011)

Tuition and Fees

- Tuition and fee payments are simplified for those attending a public school, and a national yearly maximum is created for those enrolled in private or foreign schools (effective August 1, 2011)
 - Individual state caps are removed
 - Private and foreign costs are capped at \$17,500 annually
 - The Yellow Ribbon Program may be used for costs in excess of the cap.

Monthly Housing Allowance

- Monthly housing allowance benefits are prorated based upon rate of pursuit, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10 (effective August 1, 2011)
 - If you are enrolled in 9 credits when 12 credits is full time, your rate of pursuit is .75 and you will receive 80% of the applicable Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rate
 - If you are enrolled in 10 credits when 12 credits is full time, your rate of pursuit is .83 and you will also receive 80% of the applicable BAH rate
- Break or interval pay is no longer payable under any VA education benefit program unless under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency situation such as a natural disaster or strike (effective August 1, 2011)
 - Entitlement which previously would have been used for break pay will be available for use during a future enrollment
 - Here's an example: Your semester ends December 15th. Your housing allowance is paid for the first 15 days of December only. Your next semester begins January 10th. Your next payment will be for January 10th and the rest of January.

- Allows individuals who are eligible for both Chapter 31-Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance instead of the Chapter 31 subsistence allowance (effective August 1, 2011)
- Monthly housing allowance benefits are payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning, at one-half the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents (effective October 1, 2011)

Kickers

- VA will pay Montgomery GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve kickers on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum basis at the beginning of the term (effective August 1, 2011)

Books and Supplies

- The books and supplies stipend can be paid to students attending school while on active duty (effective October 1, 2011)

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