

GI Bill Fixes Still on Track

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By Terry Howell

Today's Senate Hearings on improving the Post-9/11 GI Bill indicate that Senate Bill 3447 is still on track for the scheduled mark-up in August and vote on the Senate floor by September.

Several key players including the DoD, VA, IAVA, and VFW, testified in support in the basic concepts of the Post-9/11 Veterans' Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010. However, each requested the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee consider making several technical fixes.

Here is a quick list of proposed upgrades to the Post-9/11 GI Bill:

- Expand the program to cover Vocational and OJT Programs
- Give Guard and Reserve Full Credit for Full Time Served
- Provide Living Stipend to Veterans Utilizing Distance Learning
- Simplify the Yellow Ribbon Program
- Grant active duty students a book stipend worth \$1,000/year
- Increase Vocational Rehabilitation monthly benefits by up to \$780/month
- Reimburse students who take multiple accreditation/certification tests
- Allow enlistment kickers to be transferred to dependents
- Increase VA reporting fees paid to schools
- Simplify the types of discharges that qualify for benefits

All in all this is very encouraging news and a strong indication that the Senate is serious about fixing the current GI Bill's shortcomings.

[Let your elected officials know how you feel about this bill. Send a letter to today!](#)

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