



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

---

*Honoring those who served U.S.*

**State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education & Training**

# FLORIDA STATE APPROVING AGENCY

## SAA Update 2022: Florida Laws and Recent Federal Laws Impacting SAA Approval Actions

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

June 6-9, 2022



Florida Association of  
Veterans Education  
Specialists (FAVES)



FAVES Annual  
Conference

# How are you?!!!

We miss you!

Do you need a helping hand?

Are you doing okay?

Do you need someone to talk to?

# What's causing the change in requirements for VA, the SAAs and the SCOs?

VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) Guidance

Public Law 117-68 - The McHugh Act

Public Law 115-48 - Colmery Act

PL 115-407 - Vet Transition Act 2018

VA/SAA Annual Contract



Public Law 117-76 - The Remote Act

Public Law 116-315 - Isakson & Roe Act 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic

Florida Laws

Public Law 114-315 - Veterans Improvement Act 2016

“...Substantial changes to VA oversight of GI Bill® approved schools”



## Isakson and Roe Legislation Updates



### What does this mean for Schools?

This legislation contains over 30 provisions impacting the administration of GI Bill® benefits, including new requirements for enrollment verification, expanded restoration of entitlement opportunities, sunseting of the Montgomery GI Bill®, and substantial changes to VA oversight of GI Bill® approved schools.

*Source: VA May Office Hours Presentation, May 18, 2021*

# Topics

## Recent Federal Laws

### Impacting SAA Approval Processes

*United States Code = USC*

*Code of Federal Regulations = CFR*

*Public Law = PL*

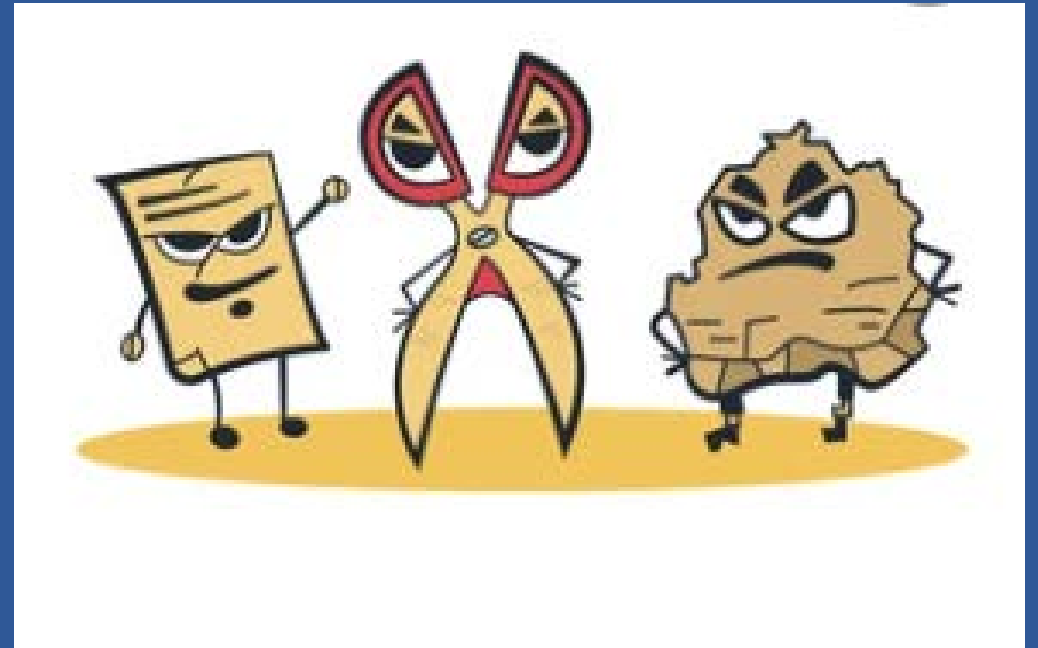
*House Bill = HB*

### Impactful But Not Affecting Approval

# Federal Laws



# Rock, Paper, Scissors...





## The Isakson and Roe Act

Section 1018 Created 38 USC § 3679(f)

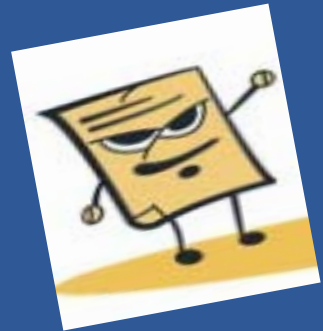
Amended 38 USC §§ 3696, 3313, 3673, 3675...



## The Remote Act

Put 38 USC § 3679(f) on hold until 8/1/22

Amended 38 USC §§ 3679(f), 3696, 3313...



## The McHugh Survivors Fairness Act

Amended 38 USC § 3679(c)

Amended 38 USC § 3679(e)...



# DISCLAIMER

The information you are about to receive may be the Florida SAA's interpretation of recent laws where final interpretation of the law by VA, is pending. Sharing this SAA interpretation is to assist you as you work on your 22-23 catalogs & approval document submissions.

VA's interpretation of the law will be the official interpretation of the law.

Please be sure to attend VA's SCO Office Hour Webinars for the most current information.

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 114-315 – Veterans Improvement Act of 2016

Section 402 which amended [38 USC § 3104\(b\)](#)  
SAA Approval Required for Chapter 31

Effective 12/16/2017

A Chapter 31 (Veterans Readiness & Employment) veteran may only pursue courses if they are also SAA approved for Chapter 30 or Chapter 33 beneficiaries

Section 404 which amended [38 USC § 3326](#)  
*Schools to Report Student Progress*

Effective 12/16/2017

*As a condition of approval, educational institutions must report the graduation and/or program completion of Chapter 33 beneficiaries, to VA*

Section 409 which amended 38 USC §§ [3675](#), [3676](#),  
[3672](#), [3679](#)  
Modification of Approval of Courses Designed to Prepare Individuals for License or Certification

Effective 12/16/2016

SAA's will ensure all Educational Institution's have published policies and disclosures pertaining to all programs which are designed to prepare individuals for a License or Certification. School's curriculum, licensure or certification requirements are that of the state.

Incentive pay not permitted. Non-compliance will require disapproval of program

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 115-48 – Colmery Act of 2017

Section 107 which amended [38 USC § 3313](#)  
MHA Based on Campus Attended  
Effective 8/1/2018

Chapter 33 Monthly Housing Allowance calculated based on the SAA approved campus where the student physically attends the majority of classes

Section 302 which amended [38 USC §3680A](#)  
*PL 115-407, Section 106 further amended this law to add chapter 35 beneficiaries*  
Effective 8/16/2017 & 12/31/2018

*Participation for Independent Study at accredited Public and Private, Non-Profit Career, Technical and Vocational Education Institutions may be utilized by all veteran benefit chapters*

Section 310 which amended [38 USC §3673](#)  
SAAs & Risk Based Surveys  
Effective 8/16/2017

VA may utilize the services of an SAA for conducting Compliance Surveys, Risk Based Surveys and other such oversight

Section 311  
VA's Oversight of SAAs Study – Need for more Documentation  
Effective 8/16/2017

*Comptroller General's Office report prompted VA's Office of Inspector General to perform a review to determine if VA and SAAs are effectively providing oversight of education programs in accordance with Title 38 USC. OIG provided recommendations how the VA and SAAs can better use data to evaluate, approve, or disapprove educational institutions*

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 115-407 – Veterans Benefits and Transition Act 2018

Section 103 which amended [38 USC § 3679](#) by creating 38 USC § 3679(e)

Disapproval Due to Penalties While Awaiting VA Payment

Effective 8/1/2019

Educational institutions must have a policy which details, upon receipt of a chapter 31 or chapter 33 beneficiary's COE or VAF 28-1905, the school will not impose financial or access penalties on the individual for a maximum of 90 days, while awaiting VA payment. The institution may not require a covered individual to request a student loan for this pending payment.

*Public Law 117-68, The John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021*

*Amended [38 USC § 3679](#)*

*Schools' published 3679(e) policy must be revised*

*Effective 8/1/2022*



*Educational institutions must have a policy which details, upon receipt of a chapter 31, chapter 33 or chapter 35 beneficiary's COE or VAF 28-1905, the school will not impose financial or access penalties on the individual for a maximum of 90 days, while awaiting VA payment. The institution may not require a covered individual to request a student loan for this pending payment.*

# Public Laws Related to COVID-19

## [PL 116-128](#) & [PL 116-140](#) & [PL 116-315](#) & [PL 117-76](#)

### [PL 116-128](#)

Signed into law 3/21/2020

If your school intends to continue providing online modality for a program that was approved for only in-resident training, contact the SAA so that we can withdraw the program approval

If a program of education approved by the State Approving Agency, is converted from being offered on-site at an educational institution to being offered by distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-related situation, VA has been given the authority to continue to provide educational assistance beginning March 1, 2020 and ending December 21, 2020. HR 8337, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act extended COVID-19 rules until June 1, 2022. See VA's April2022 Office Hours PPT for instructions

### [PL 116-140](#)

Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020  
Signed into law 4/28/2020

### [PL 116-315](#)

Isakson & Roe Act of 2020  
Signed into law 1/5/2021

### PL 117-76

The Remote Act  
Signed into law 12/21/2021

*Provides VA with the authority to continue to pay VA Work Study students during the health emergency, to a maximum of 25 hours per week; Also provided for continued payments to veteran beneficiaries for up to 4 weeks if an institution temporarily or permanently closed; Prohibited charges to entitlement if an individual was unable to pursue education due to emergency; Potential restoration of benefits for some individuals and potential extension of a beneficiary's delimiting date*

“...Substantial changes to VA oversight of GI Bill® approved schools”



## Isakson and Roe Legislation Updates



### What does this mean for Schools?

This legislation contains over 30 provisions impacting the administration of GI Bill® benefits, including new requirements for enrollment verification, expanded restoration of entitlement opportunities, sunseting of the Montgomery GI Bill®, and substantial changes to VA oversight of GI Bill® approved schools.

Public Law 116-315 Johnny Isakson & David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care & Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

*Source: VA May Office Hours Presentation, May 18, 2021*

# Federal Laws Meet State Laws

38 USC § 3679(c), and Florida Statutes 1009.26(13) & 1009.26(14)

Public Law 116-315, Isakson & Roe, Section 1005 amended 3679(c)

...eliminated the 3-year limitation for beneficiary use

...VA shall make publicly available on the internet website of the Department database explaining any requirements that are established by a public Institution of Higher Learning for an individual to be charged the in-state rate for tuition and fees...

- Public institutions had to provide VA an initial explanation of requirements by May 26, 2021, or face VA withdrawal; and
- Within 90 days of any change to the requirements, the institution must provide VA with the updated requirements

*Effective 8/1/2021*



# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

**Section 1012 which amends [38 USC §3672](#)  
Risk of Accreditation Loss at Deemed Approved  
Schools**

**Effective 8/1/2021**

**Public and Not-for-Profit IHL schools at risk of losing their accreditation, their programs will not be ‘Deemed Approved’ by an SAA. SAAs will review the school’s programs as Accredited or as Nonaccredited**

***Sections 1013 which amends [38 USC §3673](#)  
School Review for Selection of a Risk Based Survey***

***Effective 10/1/2022***

**VA and SAAs will work together to develop searchable data when reviewing schools for selection for a Risk Based Survey, at minimum, in the following areas:**

***Rapid Increase in Veteran Enrollment***

***Rapid Increase in Tuition and Fees***

***Complaints from Veteran Students***

***Compliance with 85/15% Rules***

***Veteran Completion Rates***

***Indicators of School’s Financial Stability***

***Advertising and Recruiting***

***Federal & State Government actions against school***

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## [PL 116-315](#) – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1014 which amends [38 USC §3673A](#)  
Risk Based Survey Performance & VA Notification to  
SAAs and SAA Notifications to All Other SAAs

Effective 8/1/2021

Within 60 days of the following Notices from VA, an SAA will perform a Risk Based Survey at an institution. If the survey results in Suspension or Withdrawal action, the SAA must notify VA and all other SAAs. RBS initiation due to:

*The US Department of Education (ED) of an event;  
State's Dept. of Education, or other state agency of an event;  
An SAA from another state where actions taken in their state;  
An Accrediting Agency or Association of action taken:  
The loss, or risk of loss, including Probation, Suspension,  
an Order to Show Cause relating to institution's academic  
policies and practices or to its financial stability or  
revocation of accreditation  
ED places school on provisional certification status:  
Heightened Cash Monitoring Level 2;  
Punitive Action taken by Federal Agency for Misconduct or  
Misleading Marketing Practices;  
Punitive action taken by a State Agency;*

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1015 which amends 38 USC §§ [3675](#) , [3672](#)  
Accredited Institution & Participation in Title IV Aid

Effective 8/1/2021

*Schools may request a waiver of this requirement from  
VA at [VBACOSECTION1015WAVR@va.gov](mailto:VBACOSECTION1015WAVR@va.gov)  
Waiver available August 1, 2021 and forward*

To be approved by an SAA, an accredited institution must be approved for and participate in a Title IV Federal Financial Aid program (e.g. Pell Grant). VA/SAA's require schools to provide a copy of the Program Participation Agreement for approval/reapproval & during compliance survey visits

Also, all standard degree programs at a 'Deemed Approved' school must be able to participate in a Title IV aid program

Section 1016 which  
amends [38 USC § 3676](#)  
Law School Accreditation

Effective 8/1/2021

*To be approved by an SAA, a program designed to prepare an individual for licensure to practice law in a State must be accredited by a specialized accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education from which recipients of law degrees from said institutions are eligible to sit for a bar examination in any State*

Section 1017 which amends [38 USC § 3679](#)  
Risk Based Survey and Disapproval

Effective 8/1/2021

Provides the SAA with the authority to immediately disapprove an approved facility that either fails to comply with a Risk Based Survey, as provided by [38 USC § 3673](#), or fails to secure "affirmation of approval" following the survey

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

**Section 1020 which amends [38 USC § 3696](#)  
Prohibition on certain advertising, sales, and  
enrollment practices**

**Effective 8/1/2021**

**NOTE: The process established under this subsection  
will not prohibit an SAA from independently  
investigating a potential violation by the school or  
prohibit the SAA from taking action against the school.  
Additional VA interpretation and guidance is pending**

**Expands VA review and actions for when schools, owners,  
representatives of the institution engage in substantial  
misrepresentation, or misleading statements which are not limited to  
advertising, sales, marketing, incentive payments and enrollment  
practices**

**Provides authority to the Secretary of VA and the Under Secretary to  
Suspend or Withdraw schools**

**Introduces requirement for facility to obtain VA-approved 3<sup>rd</sup> party  
auditors**

**Details consequences of 1st violation, repeat violations**

**Reapproval requests go to the SAA no sooner than 540 days from  
when VA takes Suspension/Withdrawal actions with the school; The  
Secretary must agree to the reinstatement**

***Section 1020 which amends [38 USC § 3676](#)  
Nonaccredited Institutions and their Owners***

***Effective 8/1/2021***

***SAA's will Review for:***

***Engagement in Substantial misrepresentation;***

***Federal departments or agencies that have taken punitive action for  
misleading or deceptive practices and the SAA will give due weight to  
any orders issued;***

***Advertising, sales & enrollment material for preceding 12-mo period***

# Impactful Public Laws & SAA Approval Actions

## [PL 116-315](#) – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

**Section 1010 which amends 38 USC § 3313  
Verification of Chapter 33 Beneficiary Enrollment**

**Effective 8/1/2021**

**The Chapter 33 beneficiary must verify their enrollment monthly, to VA. This may be accomplished through text, email or by calling the Education Call Center (ECC)**

**Failure of the Chapter 33 beneficiary to verify enrollment for 2 consecutive months will result in VA MHA and Kicker payments placed on hold and student must call the ECC**

**IHL and NCD facilities must verify Chapter 33 enrollment to VA by submitting an amended certification of enrollment for each term certified. The amended certification must be submitted timely. If the school has an add/drop period the amended certification verifying the beneficiary's enrollment must be submitted within 30 days of the add/drop end date. If no add/drop period, then the amended certification must be submitted no less than 30 day and no more than 60 days after the term start date**

# Impactful Public Laws & SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

<p>Section 1019 which amends 38 USC § 3685 Overpayments to Eligible Persons or Veterans Effective 1/5/2021</p>	<p>Requires that schools and training programs be financially responsible, instead of the student, for benefits paid directly to an educational institution for Chapter 33 tuition and fees, Yellow Ribbon payments and advance payments</p>
<p>Section 1022 which amends <u>38 USC § 3699B</u> For-Profit schools converting to Non-Profit Status Effective 1/5/2021</p>	<p>The SAA will conduct a Risk Based Survey each year, for the 3-year period following the school's conversion from For-Profit status to Non-Profit Status</p>

# Isakson & Roe, Section 1018 & The Remote Act

VA is working with Congress before final guidance pertaining to Section 1018 is released. PL 117-76, THE REMOTE ACT OF 2021, HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON SECTION 1018 [WHICH CREATED 38 USC § 3679(f)...]

*“Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not carry out subsection (f) of section 3679 of title 38, USC, until August 1, 2022...”*

*“This subsection [f] shall not apply to an educational institution located in a foreign country; or that provides to a covered individual consumer information regarding costs of the program of education (including financial aid available to such covered individual) using a form or template developed by the Secretary of Education.” 38 USC § 3679(f)(7)*

Established that the U.S. Department of Education’s “College Financing Plan” form, or the current form developed by ED will... exempt schools from 38 USC § 3679(f)

# College Financing Plan Template

Due to the passage of The Remote Act, The College Financing Plan form, developed by the Secretary of Education, will satisfy the requirements of the Personalized Form required by Isakson & Roe, Section 1018 (38 USC § 3679(f)) and, based on PL 117-76, The Remote Act, may exempt a school from all of 38 USC § 3679(f).

Complete and maintain in EVERY veteran beneficiary file

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/index.html>

University of the United States (UUS)		MM / DD / YYYY	
Undergraduate College Financing Plan			
Student Name, Identifier			
<b>Total Cost of Attendance 2022-2023</b>			
	<b>On Campus Residence</b>	<b>Off Campus Residence</b>	
Tuition and fees	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX	
Housing and meals	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX	
Books and supplies	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX	
Transportation	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX	
Other education costs	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX	
<b>Estimated Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$X,XXXX / yr</b>	<b>\$X,XXXX / yr</b>	
<b>Expected Family Contribution</b>			
Based on FAFSA		X,XXXX / yr	
Based on Institutional Methodology		X,XXXX / yr	
Based on Institutional Methodology Used by most private institutions in addition to FAFSA.		X,XXXX / yr	
<b>Scholarship and Grant Options</b>			
Scholarships and Grants are considered "GIT" aid - no repayment is needed.			
<b>Scholarships</b>		<b>Grants</b>	
Merit-Based Scholarships		Need-Based Grant Aid	
Scholarships from your school	\$X,XXXX	Federal Pell Grants	\$X,XXXX
Scholarships from your state	\$X,XXXX	Institutional Grants	\$X,XXXX
Other scholarships	\$X,XXXX	State Grants	\$X,XXXX
Employer Paid Tuition Benefits	\$X,XXXX	Other forms of grant aid	\$X,XXXX
<b>Total Scholarships</b>	<b>\$X,XXXX / yr</b>	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$X,XXXX / yr</b>
<b>VA Education Benefits</b>			
VA Education Benefits		\$X,XXXX / yr	
<b>College Costs You Will Be Required to Pay</b>			
<b>Net Price To You</b>		\$X,XXXX / yr	
<small>(Total cost of attendance minus total grants and total scholarships)</small>			
<b>Loan and Work Options to Pay the Net Price to You</b>			
<small>You must repay loans, plus interest and fees.</small>			
<b>Loan Options</b>		<b>Work Options</b>	
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$X,XXXX / yr	Work-study	\$X,XXXX / yr
(x.xx% interest rate) (x.xx% origination fee)		Hours Per Week (estimated)	XX / wk
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$X,XXXX / yr	Other Campus Job	\$X,XXXX / yr
(x.xx% interest rate) (x.xx% origination fee)		<b>Total Work</b>	<b>\$X,XXXX / yr</b>
<b>Total Loan Options</b>	<b>\$X,XXXX / yr</b>		
<small>* For federal student loans, origination fees are deducted from loan proceeds.</small>			
<b>Other Options</b>			
You may have other options to repay the remaining costs. These include:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition payment plan offered by the institution</li> <li>Parent PLUS loans, which your parent can apply for</li> <li>Non-Federal Private education loan, which you or your parent can apply for after passing a credit check</li> <li>Other Military or National Service Benefits</li> </ul>			
<b>Customized Information from UUS</b>			
<b>Next steps</b>			
<b>For More Information</b>		<b>Loan Amounts</b>	
University of the United States (UUS)		Note that the amounts listed are the maximum available to you. To learn about loan repayment choices and calculate your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to: <a href="https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans">https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans</a>	
Financial Aid Office			
123 Main Street			
Anytown, ST 12345			
Telephone: (123) 456-7890			
E-mail: <a href="mailto:financialaid@uus.edu">financialaid@uus.edu</a>			



# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1018 which amends [38 USC § 3679](#) to create 3679(f)(1)

Prior to Enrollment – Provide a Personalized Form

This form would be a customized form developed by your school

‘Principles of Excellence’ schools and Title IV schools used an ED document, in the past:

*Financial Aid Shopping Sheet*

*College Financing Plan*

Effective 6/15/2021

Enforced 8/1/2022

To maintain SAA approval, a school must, prior to veteran beneficiary’s enrollment, provide the individual with a personalized form which includes:

*Estimate of Total Cost of Course;*

*Estimate of Cost of Living Expenses;*

*Amount of Costs Covered by VA;*

*Amount of Title IV & Institutional Aid an Individual MAY Qualify for;*

*Estimate of Student Loan Debt at Graduation;*

*Information Regarding Graduation Rates;*

*Job Placement Rates for Grads by Program (if available);*

*Institution’s Acceptance of Transfer & Military Credits;*

*Additional Requirements for License & Certification*

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 117-76 The Remote Act

PL 117-76, The Remote Act amends [38 USC § 3679](#) by creating 3679(f)(7)

‘Principles of Excellence’ schools and Title IV schools used an ED document, in the past:

*Financial Aid Shopping Sheet*

*College Financing Plan*

ED’s most current forms

*22-23 Undergraduate College Financing Plan*

*22-23 Grad/Professional College Financing Plan*

Find the template for these ED forms at:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/index.html>

OR Google: Financial Aid Shopping Sheet

Signed into Law 12/21/2021

**Enforced 8/1/2022**

Established that the U.S. Department of Education’s “College Financing Plan” form, or the current form developed by ED will satisfy the personalized, covered individual consumer information form required in Section 1018 and exempt schools from all of 38 USC § 3679(f). The form must be provided to the covered individual, prior to enrollment.

*“This subsection [f] shall not apply to an educational institution located in a foreign country; or that provides to a covered individual consumer information regarding costs of the program of education (including financial aid available to such covered individual) using a form or template developed by the Secretary of Education.”*

NOTE: Again, SAAs are awaiting additional VA interpretation. Covered individuals include chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 1606 and 1607

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1018 which amends [38 USC § 3679](#)  
Tuition Change While Covered Individual is Enrolled in  
a Course

Effective 6/15/2021

**Enforced 8/1/2022**

Regardless of which form you use, to maintain SAA approval, within 15 days of determining tuition rates and fees for an academic year that is different than the amount being charged by the institution, the educational institution **must provide** a covered individual enrolled in a course at the educational institution with an updated personalized form OR ED's College Financing Plan form

SAA's Actions if Non-compliant with Section 1018

Note: This Section amends § [3679](#) - Disapprovals

The SAA will take following actions:

Recommend VA Publish a Warning on GI Bill® website

Suspend/Disapprove a course/school

**Enforced 8/1/2022**

**IMPORTANT:**

Please review [PL 116-315](#), Section 1018, as VA may permit requests to waive some requirements in this section

The waiver must be submitted prior to the first day of the institution's academic year for which the waiver is sought. VA may waive the requirements for a 1-academic year period, beginning in August of every year, and the institution may not receive a waiver for more than 2 consecutive years

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1018 which amends [38 USC § 3679](#)  
Subsection (f)(3)

SAA to Respond to Accrediting Agency Negative Action

Effective 6/15/2021

Enforced 8/1/2022

The SAA will take actions if an educational institution is the subject of a negative action by an accrediting agency that accredits the institution, to include any of the following:

Accreditor Sanctions

Accreditor Probation

Loss of Accreditation

Loss of Candidature for Accreditation

Sections 1018 which amends [38 USC § 3679](#) (f)(1)(F)

Effective 6/15/2021

Enforced 8/1/2022

*To maintain SAA approval, an accredited institution must obtain approval from their accrediting agency for any new programs before enrolling a covered individual in the new program*

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1018 which amends [38 USC § 3679](#)  
Subsection (f)(1)(C) and (D)

New Required Institutional Policies

Effective 6/15/2021

Enforced 8/1/2022

For SAA approval, educational institutions must maintain POLICIES pertaining to:

Informing covered individuals of availability of Title IV aid and Institutional aid; Institution must alert individuals of their potential for this aid, prior to packaging student loans or alternative financing;

Institutions must prohibit automatic renewal of covered individuals in courses;

Must ensure each covered individual approves of his/her enrollment in a course;

Ensure members of US Armed Forces, Reserve components and the National Guard may be readmitted at the institution if members have to temporarily suspend enrollment by reason of service and otherwise accommodates member during short absences due to service

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1018 which amends [38 USC § 3679](#)  
Subsection (f)(1)(E)  
Requirements

Effective 6/15/2021

Enforced 8/1/2022

Provide to a covered individual enrolled in a course of education at the educational institution with information regarding:

Requirements to Graduate from the Course

When Classes for the Program will be Offered

The Timeline to Graduate/Complete

Effective 6/15/2021  
Subsection (f)(1)(H)  
VA Point of Contact

Enforced 8/1/2022

*An educational institution must designate an employee of the educational institution to serve as a point of contact (PoC) for covered individuals and family of such individuals and provide or refer to others for academic, financial, disability, and course completion counseling*

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1018 which amends 38 USC § 3679 (f)(2)  
Prohibitive Actions

Effective 6/15/2021

Enforced 8/1/2022

Educational institution may not carry out deceptive or persistent recruiting techniques, including on military installations, that may include:

Misrepresentation or payment of incentive compensation;

During one-month period may not make 3 or more unsolicited contacts;

Engage in same-day recruitment AND registration;

PL 117-76, The Remote Act  
Amended 38 USC § 3679(f)(2)(B)

Signed into Law 12/21/2021

The above requirements are not applicable to the recruitment of foreign students residing in foreign countries who are not eligible to receive Federal student assistance

# Public Laws Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## [PL 116-315](#) – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Section 1018 which amends [38 USC § 3679](#) creating 3679(f)(2)(B)

### Prohibitive Actions

Effective 6/15/2021

Enforced 8/1/2022

PL 117-76, The Remote Act  
Amended 38 USC § 3679 by creating (f)(2)(C)

Signed into Law 12/21/2021

The SAA or VA shall take action against an educational institution that pays inducements, including any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, transportation, lodging, meals, or other item having a monetary value of more than a de minimis amount, to any individual or entity, or its agents including third party lead generators or marketing firms other than salaries paid to employees or fees paid to contractors in conformity with all applicable laws for the purpose of securing enrollments of covered individuals or obtaining access to educational assistance under this title, with the exception of scholarships, grants, and tuition reductions provided by the educational institution

The Remote Act created § 3679(f)(2)(C) which details: In determining whether a violation of the above occurred, the SAA or VA, shall construe the requirements of this paragraph in accordance with the regulations and guidance prescribed by the Secretary of Education under section 487(a)(20) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)(20))



# Recommendations to School Officials Working on 22-23 Catalogs While Awaiting VA Guidance Pertaining to Isakson & Roe (I & R), Section 1018:

*Incorporate all I & R Requirements into your 22-23 Catalog, Except for the Requirements in Section 1018*

*Adopt Use of U.S. Department Of Education's College Financing Plan Form, No Later Than August 1, 2022*

*Review Catalog Requirements and Practices Required within I & R, Section 1018 and Prepare to Satisfy Section 1018 Action/Procedural Requirements by August 1, 2022, AND Prepare, as Addendums, Section 1018 Requirements for Published Catalog Items*

**OR**

*Request a Section 1018 Waiver from VA*

# Section 1018 Waiver Request

VA may permit requests to waive some requirements in Section 1018

The waiver must be submitted prior to the first day of the institution's academic year for which the waiver is sought.

VA may waive the requirements for a ONE-academic year period, beginning in August of every year, and the institution may not receive a waiver for more than 2 consecutive years

**Waivers may be available June 15, 2022**

# Public Law 117-76 a.k.a HR 5545

## The Remote Act

PL 117-76 also known as HR 5545, The Remote Act

Signed into law 12/21/2021

Amended

38 USC § 3313

38 USC § 3690

38 USC § 3680

As of April 2022



Amended 38 USC § 3313 to allow VA to waive requirement for second Ch 33 certification in a term if the school uses a flat rate tuition and fee structure [VA determined on 4-15-22 that no situation exists that would exempt a flat rate tuition school from having to submit the second certification as detailed in: VA Policy Advisory: The REMOTE Act and Flat Rate Tuition and Fees]

Amended 38 USC § 3690, Examination of Records, to exclude the records and accounts of an educational institution located in a foreign country; AND that pertain to an individual who is NOT receiving VA educational assistance

Effective January 1, 2022, 38 USC § 3680 is amended to allow 'Rounding Out' during the final semester, term or academic period the VA beneficiary will complete the program of education. [VA determined on 1/1/22 the beneficiary may not enroll in non-required courses to constitute more than half-time enrollment, when rounding out]

# Impactful Public Laws Not Affecting SAA Approval Actions

## PL 116-315 – Isakson & Roe Act of 2020

Best Practice: Know the laws, enforce them, and...	
<i>Documentation</i> <i>Documentation</i> <i>Documentation</i>	<i>Documentation</i> <i>Documentation</i> <i>Documentation</i>

# VA

## Contact/Reference Information

VA Education Line (888) 442-4551

VA Debt Management (800) 827-0648  
[dms.ops@va.gov](mailto:dms.ops@va.gov)

Corrections to GI Bill® Comparison Tool  
[EDUAPPMGMT.VBACO@va.gov](mailto:EDUAPPMGMT.VBACO@va.gov)

Florida Education Outreach Office  
[FloridaEducationOutreach.VBASPT@va.gov](mailto:FloridaEducationOutreach.VBASPT@va.gov)

Email VA - Use the “Ask VA” link  
[www.benefits.va.gov](http://www.benefits.va.gov)

VA SCO Training Webinars  
[https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education\\_resources/school\\_certifying\\_officials/presentations.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/presentations.asp)

VA Priority Enrollment  
[Priority.enrollment.vbabuf@va.gov](mailto:Priority.enrollment.vbabuf@va.gov)

# SAA

## Contact Information

**Betsy Wickham, Bureau Chief**  
[wickhamb@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:wickhamb@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(727) 319-7401**

**Cora Stagner, Office Manager**  
[stagnerc@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:stagnerc@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(727) 319-7402**

**Paul Smith, Administrative Assistant**  
[smithpa@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:smithpa@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(727) 319-7406**

**Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
**State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education and Training**  
[SAAOutreach@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:SAAOutreach@fdva.state.fl.us)

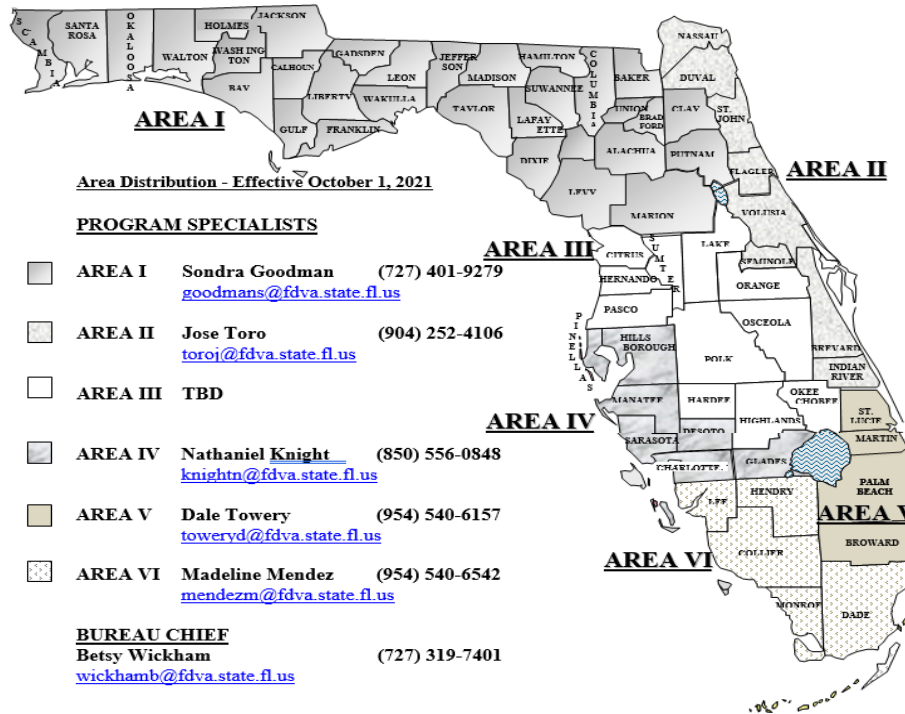
# State Approving Agency (SAA) Area Distribution



James S. Hartsell  
Executive Director

State of Florida  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Education and Training  
[SAAOutreach@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:SAAOutreach@fdva.state.fl.us)  
[www.floridavets.org](http://www.floridavets.org)

Ron DeSantis  
Governor  
Ashley Moody  
Attorney General  
Jimmy Patronis  
Chief Financial Officer  
Nikki Fried  
Commissioner of Agriculture



**Area Distribution - Effective October 1, 2021**

**PROGRAM SPECIALISTS**

- AREA I** Sondra Goodman (727) 401-9279  
[goodmans@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:goodmans@fdva.state.fl.us)
- AREA II** Jose Toro (904) 252-4106  
[toroj@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:toroj@fdva.state.fl.us)
- AREA III** TBD
- AREA IV** Nathaniel Knight (850) 556-0848  
[knightn@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:knightn@fdva.state.fl.us)
- AREA V** Dale Towery (954) 540-6157  
[toweryd@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:toweryd@fdva.state.fl.us)
- AREA VI** Madeline Mendez (954) 540-6542  
[mendezm@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:mendezm@fdva.state.fl.us)

**BUREAU CHIEF**  
Betsy Wickham (727) 319-7401  
[wickhamb@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:wickhamb@fdva.state.fl.us)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**  
Cora Stagner, Office Manager (727) 319-7402  
[stagnerc@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:stagnerc@fdva.state.fl.us)  
Paul Smith, Admin. Assistant (727) 319-7406  
[smithpa@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:smithpa@fdva.state.fl.us)

# SAA

## Program Specialist Contact Information

**AREA I – Sondra Goodman**  
[goodmans@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:goodmans@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(727) 401-9279**

**AREA II – Jose Toro**  
[toroj@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:toroj@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(904) 252-4106**

**AREA - Brad Gilkes**  
[gilkesb@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:gilkesb@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(352) 422-5736**

**AREA IV – Nathaniel Knight**  
[knightn@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:knightn@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(850) 556-0848**

**AREA V - Dale Towery**  
[toweryd@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:toweryd@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(954) 540-6157**

**AREA VI - Madeline Mendez**  
[mendezm@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:mendezm@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(954) 540-6542**

**AREA - Ingrid Abernathy**  
[abernathyi@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:abernathyi@fdva.state.fl.us)

**(727) 385-5865**



Questions?