



History and Role of the State Approving Agencies

Dr. Joseph Wescott II, Legislative Director, NASAA

FAVES 2023

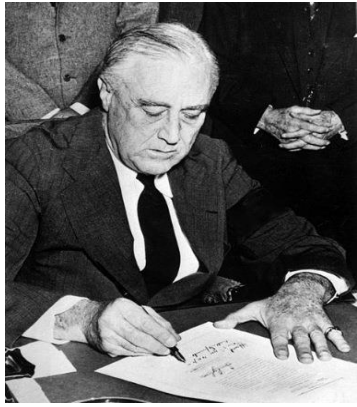
History of the GI Bill

“One of the finest education benefits ever devised”



1776 Continental Congress approves measure to provide pensions to disabled soldiers

1943 Harry Colmery (WW-I vet) writes 1st draft of new veterans education program on hotel stationery at Mayflower Hotel in Washington D.C.



Jan 1944 GI Bill of Rights introduced in Congress

Jun 1944 FDR signs GI Bill of Rights into law

1947 Veterans account for 49% of all college students

1952 Veterans Adjustment Act extends many benefits of original GI Bill to Korean War vets

1953 Original GI Bill ends. 7.8 million WWII veterans had participated in the program.





The Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the G. I. Bill of Rights was introduced in Congress in January 1944, and President Franklin Roosevelt signed it into law on June 22, 1944. The G. I. Bill provided books, tuition, and a monthly stipend for veterans who enrolled in colleges and universities. Over 2 million veterans attended college on the G.I. Bill, and it is estimated that, in 1947, veterans accounted for 49% of college students. Another 5 million veterans attended vocational schools or participated in on-the-job training opportunities funded through the G. I. Bill. The unemployment pay included in the G.I. Bill was known as 52/20 Club, which provided a payment of \$20 a week for up to 52 weeks while veterans looked for jobs following their discharge. Another important provision of the G.I. Bill was low interest, zero down payment home loans for servicemen. This enabled millions of American families to move out of urban apartments and into suburban homes.







A view of the Quonset huts used for temporary classrooms during the boom in the student population after World War II. This photo was taken in February 1948. (Photograph courtesy of Special Collections, NCSU Libraries)



The GI Bill

“One of the finest education benefits ever devised”



1966 LBJ signs Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act—restored educational benefits to veterans in times of war and peace.

1973 Military draft ends, all-volunteer force begins



1976 VRBA ends—6.8 million Vietnam-era veterans had used their benefits ; Congress passes Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

1985 Congress introduces revamped GI Bill, the “Montgomery GI Bill”

Sen. “Sonny” Montgomery
Maj Gen, US Army (ret)



A New Federal State Partnership

Congress also recognized that it was the responsibility of the State to determine the education of its citizens. It was decided that each state would establish a “State Approving Agency” and that the governor of each state would designate a state bureau or department as the SAA for the state. The SAA would be supported through funding, under contract, from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This evolved as a cooperative federal-state effort that maintained the rights of the states while monitoring and protecting a federally sponsored program administered under the terms and conditions of federal laws.



Initially, the SAA's role was to provide information on state approved programs to the VA. By the late 1940s and early 1950s, the SAAs were operating under specifically mandated federal standards, the Code of Federal Regulations, and providing approval and oversight activities. The SAAs became the primary source of assuring institutional accountability with specialized authorization exercising the state's authority to approve, disapprove and monitor education and training programs for veterans and began to assist states and the VA with exposing fraudulent and criminal activity involving the payment of veterans' benefits.





Congress, recognizing that education was a state responsibility, mandated that each State create an agency to approve the programs within their borders and to determine which programs were appropriate for veterans to enroll in, to utilize their VA educational benefits. The first State Approving Agencies (SAA) were formed for veterans after World War II. For example, the North Carolina State Approving Agency was established in 1947.





In 1948, SAA representatives met to form an organization, the *National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA)*. With the formation of NASAA, the SAAs began to create professional standards for themselves. The organization established a forum for the exchange of ideas, the promotion of high professional standards, policies and ethical practices among its members and representation on mutual interests of issues coming before the membership. It also worked to protect both the schools and the veterans from fraud, waste and abuse. The organization continues to work to develop and maintain uniform standards for all SAAs.





NASAA Mission Statement

The National Association of State Approving Agencies works in cooperation with its partners:

- (1) to facilitate the efforts of the state approving agencies to promote and safeguard quality education and training programs for all Veterans and other eligible persons;
- (2) to ensure greater education and training opportunities that meet the changing needs of Veterans; and
- (3) to protect the GI Bill resources available for those programs.



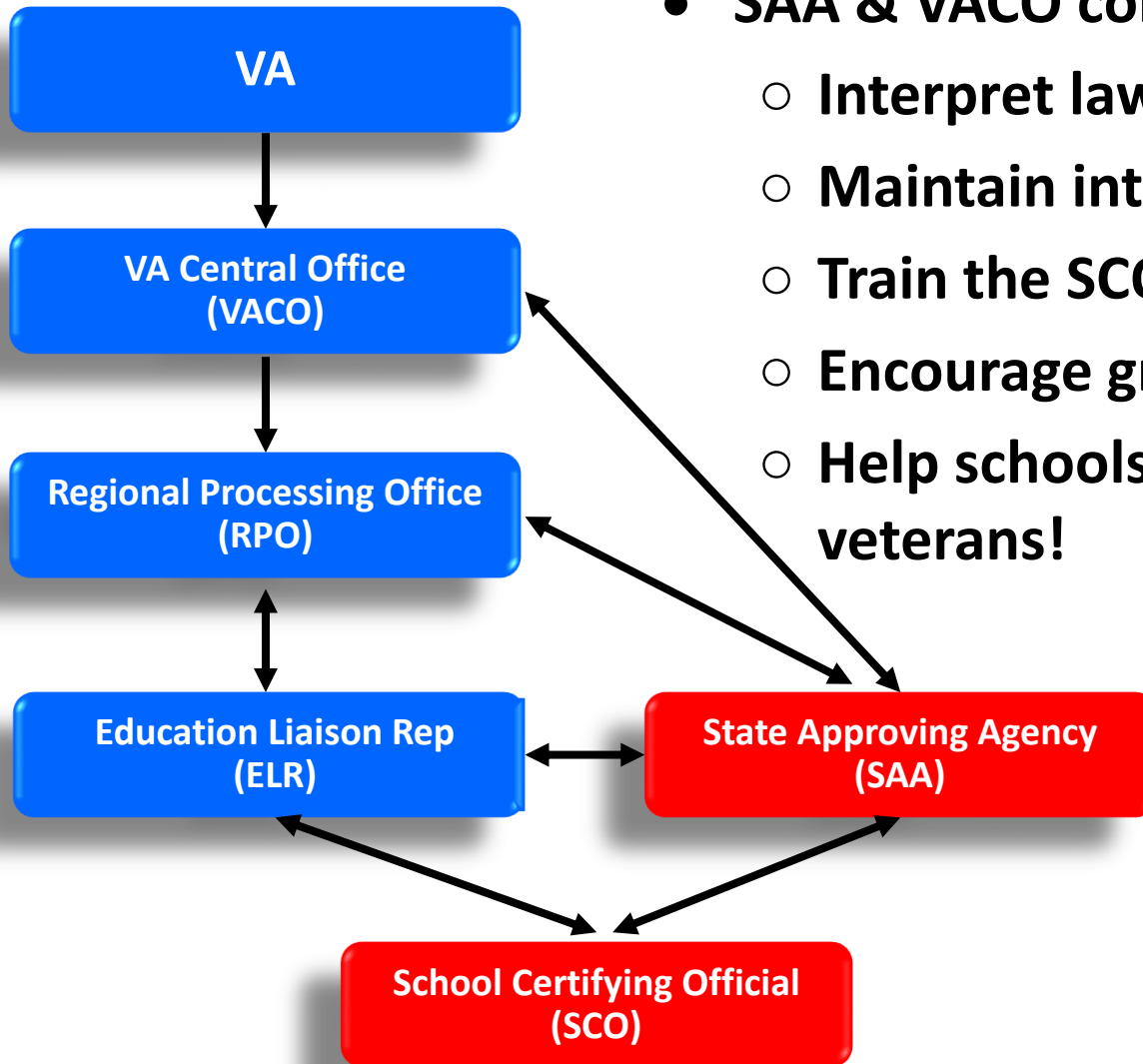
The Players

- The “Triad”
 - VA
 - SAA
 - Institution/SCO
- Other players
 - ED
 - DoL
 - FAA
 - Accrediting agencies
 - State L&C agencies

**Mutual trust,
Mutual dependence!**

And of course--THE VA-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

A Federal State Partnership



- **SAA & VACO collaborate to help**
 - Interpret laws and regulations
 - Maintain integrity of programs
 - Train the SCOs
 - Encourage greater use of VA benefits
 - Help schools/companies better serve veterans!



State Approving Agency

State Mission & Responsibility

- To ensure quality instruction, appropriate administration, and fair and equitable practices for every veteran (and eligible person) who enters a SAA-approved educational program.
- SAAs do this by:
 - Validating and **approving** educational courses and programs to be pursued by veterans and eligible persons
 - **Overseeing** educational institutions, and ensuring compliance with federal and state guidelines
 - Ensuring the interests and prerogatives of **the State** are preserved in both processes

A Partnership with Approved Institutions

Approvals

- Evaluate educational programs for approval
- Provide written evaluations and approvals to VA and the schools

Inspections and Risk Based Survey Visits

- Visit and inspect each new/active educational institution
- Confirm compliance for approved courses and programs

Technical Assistance

- Respond to institutional and veteran requests for information and assistance
- Provide written reports to DVA, as requested
- Maintain records and files for the State

The Approval

This is **THE** document that actually conveys State approval for educational programs to be considered for payment (VA) under the GI Bill®.

The Approval contains...

- General information about your school
- Programs and hours that are approved (**or EXCLUDED...**)
- Calendars, tuition and fees
- Unique programs or policies (Remedial / Branches, others...)
- ***Requirements specific to your institution***

NC SAA PROGRAM APPROVAL

NC SAA School Code: 771

Effective Date: January 2, 2006

Name: **Quality Barber Styling Academy**

407 East Grover Street
Shelby, NC 28150
Phone: 704-480-1886 Fax: 704-480-9304

Facility Code NCD: 25-0068-33

Approval Info Catalog Revision: 2006 – 2007

Accredited: N Public: N Profit: Y Branch Locations: 0
Non-Accr: Y Proprietary: Y NonP: N Additional Facilities: 0

Collaborative Programs: N Practical Training: Y Internet Instruction: N Independent Study: N
Cooperative Programs: N Remedial Training: N TV Instruction: N VA ONCE: N

Approving Official: Mary F. Gore email address: squalitybarber@carolina.rr.com
Identifying Official: Mary F. Gore email address: squalitybarber@carolina.rr.com
Institution's Web Site: None

Institution Links

NCD Programs

Description	Degree SH
Barber/Styling (Shop/Practice Predominates)(Clock Hours)	1528

Special Programs

Programs/Descriptions

Graduation Requirements

Remedial, Deficiency, Prerequisite, and Refresher Subjects may be certified for DVA educational benefits when the school has determined by appropriate test, or other academic method, that the subjects are required to fulfill graduation requirements. Full documentation is required.

Remedial Subjects
None

Credit Hours Equivalent
(SH)

Deficiency Subjects
None

Credit Hours Equivalent
(SH)

Others: None

EXCLUDED Programs and Policies

The policies, subjects, delivery modes and facilities listed below are excluded from this approval. They may not be used for certification of enrolling students Under Titles 38 and 10, United States Code or for certification of DVA Educational benefits.

LIST: **None**

NC SAA Approval 06-07

Quality Barber Styling Academy

ED: January 2, 2006

Policies and Procedures Specific to this Approval

Calendars and Schedules:

The calendars furnished with your application are approved as shown in Calendar Section. (Catalog, page 5)

For programs named in this approval, the previously approved class schedules, including part-time schedules, continue to be approved.

Calendars and Schedules Specific to this Approval

Terms	Start Date	End Date
2006	First Tuesday of each month	*TBD

*To Be Determined

Tuition / Fees and Other Charges:

The schedule of tuition, fees, and other charges furnished with your application are approved. (Catalog, page 10)

Facilities Specific to this Approval

Branch Schools / Locations: Branch Schools / Locations are considered separate teaching facilities which have a stand-alone, or near stand-alone, capability. Branch Schools / Locations must be approved by a separate application and separate notice.

Your institution has the following approvals for Branch Schools/Locations: **None**

Additional Facilities: Additional Facilities are considered teaching sites that have a direct relationship with the parent campus. Additional Facilities are considered an integral part of your parent campus and are approved as shown below.

Your institution has the following approvals for Additional Facilities: **None**

Requirements Specific to this Approval

Students who have met all admissions requirements and have had all transcripts for prior education and training evaluated may be enrolled to DVA when files are complete to document these requirements.

This approval supersedes all previous approvals except that persons enrolled in previously approved programs, as of the date of this notice, may continue to completion so long as they remain continuously enrolled.

Measurement: The programs and courses approved in Clock Hours will be measured in Clock Hours. All documentation and reporting to DVA will be in Clock Hours. (Reference, 38 CFR, Section 21.4272.)

Conditional admission, conditional acceptance, provisional student status, special student status (for graduate and/or undergraduate programs) may be approved for accredited institutions of higher learning (IHL) under the following conditions: NC SAA has determined an institutional policy is acceptable and the institution has requested approval of that policy or approval for an individual student situation that fits the policy; the academic department or division has determined and certified the specific academic requirements for the individual student or situation; and the institution ensures that the requirements for full and unconditional acceptance are completed within two semesters after admission. This institution has not been approved for conditional admission.

High School transcripts are required for Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and institutions that teach IHL-type programs where they are necessary to determine prerequisites and/or to fulfill the requirements of the institution. For transfer students or students entering Non-College Degree (NCD) programs or vocational programs, proof of high school completion or proof of the ability to benefit is required. Proof of high school completion may include: copies of high school transcripts or diplomas, transcripts from other accredited schools, and GED or AHS certificates. Proof of ability to benefit requires test or academic / vocational evaluation by faculty or administrators. This institution requires proof of high school completion for certificate and diploma programs.

Requirements Specific to this Approval (continued)

Admission for Home-Schooled Students: For the admission of Home-Schooled Students, Institution must have a written policy that includes the following items:

- Applicants must submit a completed application for admission and meet all other general entrance requirements.
- In lieu of a high school diploma, applicants must present from the Division of Non-Public Education a copy of written acknowledgment to operate a home school.
- Applicants who have previously attended a conventional public/ private school must provide a copy of their cumulative record from the school attended.
- Applicants must present a copy of their test results from a most recently administered nationally standardized achievement test.
- Applicants must take the college's or institution's placement test. (For institutions that do not offer a placement test, the institution must provide documentation for an academic / vocational evaluation.)

Pass-Fail grades are excluded. However, courses which are required for graduation and which require Pass-Fail grades must be approved when the academic policy that applies to Pass-Fail grades has been written, accepted, and approved.

Repeat courses previously passed is excluded. Courses may be repeated and certified to DVA when an institution has an academic requirement for a specified grade-level in a course and the student has not attained that grade.

Clinical and practical pursuits which are required in order for a student to obtain a practitioner's license or registration or certification are credited toward meeting graduation requirements are approved as institutional training and may be reported without further differentiation.

The Standards of Progress and Conduct as shown in your catalog have been reviewed and are considered adequate for meeting the requirements of NC SAA and DVA procedures. Students may not be continued in enrolled status beyond two consecutive terms while below the level of continuous achievement necessary to graduate.

Published attendance policies must be administered and enforced. Students who violate the policy or who are not physically present for thirty consecutive days will be reported in accordance with requirements.

Attendance records for students receiving VA education benefits must be maintained to meet the reporting requirements for DVA and record keeping requirements for Approval. When the average weekly rate of attendance changes the entitlement for DVA education benefits previously reported, school officials will accomplish a review to determine the student's ability to continue and report changes in accordance with requirements.

Records and accounts of students will be kept intact and in good condition on your premises for not less than three years following the last date of attendance.

This approval acknowledges your intent to accept and participate in staff development opportunities as made available by the State Approving Agency or in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Your institution is required to keep complete records of all advertising, sales, and enrollment materials used during the most immediate twelve months which shall be available for inspection. You are constrained from using advertising, sales, or enrollment practices which are erroneous, deceptive, or misleading by actual statement, omission or intimation.

A copy of your approved catalog must be given each student, with any approved supplements and addenda, upon enrollment.

A pro rata refund policy as required by Title 38 United States Code [Section 3676 (c) (13)] must be administered in the event a person fails to enter, withdraws, or is discontinued from your institution. No more than \$10.00 of the registration fee may be retained. The balance must be pro-rated.

This approval may not be extended to a new ownership or a change of location.

Any additional facilities used for instructional purposes require prior approval before an eligible person may be enrolled.

This approval remains in effect through the duration of the publication identified in the third paragraph of this notice. Prior to the introduction of the next issue, it will be necessary for your institution to apply for approval under provisions of your new issue.

Requirements Specific to this Approval (continued)

This approval is for the enrollment of veterans, military and other eligible persons and meets the provisions of Title 38 and Title 10 United States Code, Section 3676.

Approval is prepared and certified by:

Joseph W. Wescott II, Program Specialist, NC SAA

Compliance and Oversight

- SAAs assists DVA with this responsibility
- Former “**Supervisory Visits**” were more focused on SCO training and process improvement
- **Compliance Survey** primarily an audit of fiscal administration of the GI Bill; focus shifted from academic programs to more emphasis on finances (no longer applicable)
- **Risk Based Surveys are** more focused on outcomes and education programs. NASAA Risk Based Survey Project determined the parameters of these visits.

Risk-based Quality Assurance System



Project Goals:

- Use meaningful metrics to identify risks in order to make sure veterans are well served, and to safeguard taxpayer funds
- Conduct data-based comprehensive and veteran-centric site visits
- Build relationships with federal and state regulators and accreditors
- Create a consistent national oversight model

Site Review of Risky Schools



Separate schools into three priority levels based on risk screen using public data



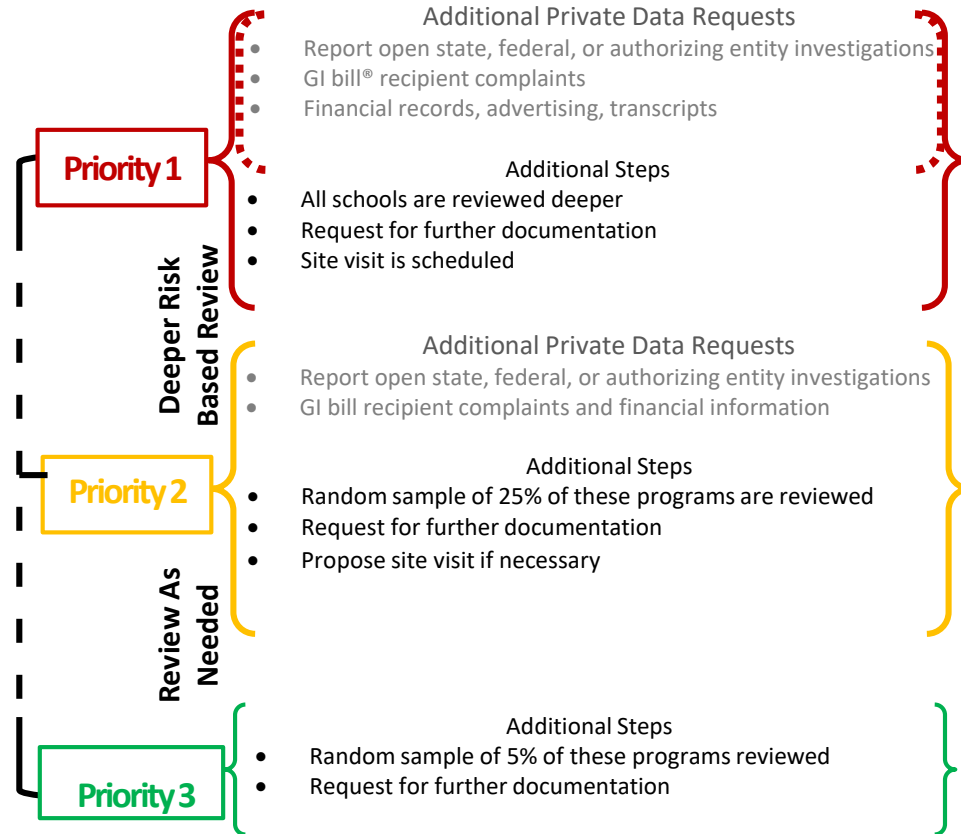
For selected schools, SAA sends request for data and documents in advance to prepare for site review



Site visit includes classroom observation, student interviews, and inquiries based on pre-visit data review



Summary to the facility, report to VA and referrals made to affiliated agencies



Data and Document Request

- Each school identified was asked to provide a set of materials.
- Documents requested included: Advertisements and recruiting materials; student complaints, financials, 90/10 and 85/15 compliance, and pending investigations.
- SAAs then evaluated the data and prepared for the site visit focusing on the issues identified.

Contents

1. Initial RBS Evaluation Form
(Appendix: A2)
2. Student File Document Upload
3. Advertising Upload
4. Complaint Upload
5. Financial Soundness Review
(Appendix: A3)
6. Facility Contact Information
7. *Certification Form*
Should be Signed and Returned

Appendices /Attached Forms:

Please read and fill out this form and any attached forms that you receive including:

Appendix A1. Facility Data Request PDF
(this document)

Appendix A2. Initial RBS Evaluation PDF

Appendix A3. Financial Soundness Review
Excel Spreadsheet

A1. Facility Data Request: Information to Submit Prior to Pilot RBS Site Visit

Purpose of This Form

Please review and familiarize yourselves with this whole form prior to initiating information collection. This form "A1. Facility Data Request" provides an overview of the information along with accompanying forms that you will be uploading and submitting to your respective State Approving Agency (SAA). The information submitted to your SAA will be reviewed and will help prepare for a potential site visit if necessary.

The SAA in your state is required to review facility information to determine compliance with approval requirements outlined in 38 USC 3672, 3675 and 3676. This includes student records of those receiving training benefits and facility information, reports, and data.

SAAs will systematically be conducting reviews examining specific areas relating to finances, enrollment, recruiting, student outcomes, and other success measures. Additional information may be requested following this initial request.

Pilot Model: Site Visit

- SAAs tour the facility, observe classroom instruction, interview students, and make inquiries of relevant staff based on pre-visit data reviewed.
- SAAs then make a qualitative assessment of factors that cannot be reviewed off-site

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based form for a site visit. The form is contained within a light blue border. On the left side, there is a white box with a dark blue border containing the following fields and instructions:

- Facility Name:** Enter then press tab
- Facility Code:** Enter code and press tab
- Type of Visit:** Choose an item or type answer
- Date of Review:** Select date then press tab
- Contents:**
 - I. List of Persons Interviewed
 - II. FACILITIES
 - a. Equipment
 - b. Learning Resources
 - c. Teaching Devices
 - d. Faculty
 - e. Class Content
 - f. Additional Questions

On the right side, there is a white box with a dark blue border titled **Purpose**. The text inside reads: "The purpose of this part of the process is to make a qualitative assessment of factors that cannot be reviewed off-site, provide the facility an opportunity to supply any missing information and respond to any questions, review class instruction and facilities to ensure adequate resources and quality, and provide the facility with a preliminary assessment of its shortcomings and strong points based on review of the documents and data previously submitted to the State Approving Agency (SAA). Information from this site visit will be used to inform the report to the VA on actions/consequences in response to findings."

Consequences & Subsequent Actions

Some reviews will find the initial risk factors were not actually indicative of heightened risk and no reason for corrective action is warranted.

Other reviews, however, will find academic shortcomings, financial noncompliance, or deceptive recruiting practices that may rise to the level of a substantial misrepresentation.

Potential Consequences

- ❑ Mandatory School Official Training
- ❑ Require demonstration of improved performance on specified metrics within particular timeframe
- ❑ Program Suspension (i.e. disapprove New GI Bill® Enrollments)
- ❑ Withdrawal of Program (i.e. discontinue all GI Bill Payments)
- ❑ Continuation of GI Bill participation pending no further detrimental performance
- ❑ No corrective action required based on satisfactory SAA review

Subsequent Actions

- Mandatory re-review in 1yr including follow-up site visit
- Possible re-review in 2 yrs depending on demonstrated performance improvement
- No mandatory further review required based on a satisfactory deeper review
- Ineligibility period for programs that are disapproved, as needed

Major Veterans Education Legislation

- The Post 9/11 GI Bill (2009)
- Public Law 11-377 (2011)
- Public Law 112-249 (2013)
- Public Law 113-146 (2014)
- Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016
- Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017
- Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020

Post 9/11 GI Bill

- Became effective on August 1, 2009
- A more complex program!
 - Many levels of eligibility
 - Confusing concurrent eligibility
 - New benefits similar to original WW II GI Bill
 - Initially a challenge to understand and administer
- SAAs took on new “consultant/trainer” role

Public Law 111-377

- Became effective October 1, 2011
- Many positives
 - More programs now covered by Post 9/11 GI Bill
 - More potential beneficiaries
- A “Game-Changer” for SAAs
 - Changed State/Federal approval authorities
 - SAAs acquired new role of assisting VA with Compliance Surveys

Public Law 112-249

Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans

Public Law 112-249, signed on January 10, 2013, mandates, among other things...

- A **centralized** mechanism for tracking/publishing **feedback** from students and SAA regarding quality of instruction, recruiting practices, and post-graduation employment placement of institutions of higher education.
- SAA's will **share with accrediting agencies** or associations information regarding the SAA's evaluation of an IHL.

2014

VA & NASAA Initiatives

- National VA Online **Feedback** (Complaint) System
 - A centralized online reporting system; launched in Jan 2014
 - Report violations of the **Principles of Excellence** (E.O. 13607)
 - Report negative experiences with educational institutions
 - Identify and address unfair, deceptive, misleading practices
 - Ensure high quality academic and student support services
- VA Online **Comparison** Tool
 - Launched in February 2014
 - Easier to calculate Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities and other education and training programs across the country.

2014

H.R. 3230 – Veterans Access, Choice, & Accountability Act of 2014

- Signed into law August 8, 2014, as **Public Law 113-146**
- Primarily addresses veterans' health matters
- Expands Fry Scholarship eligibility to spouses
 - Effective January 1, 2015
 - Entitlement expires 15 years after servicemember's death or the date the spouse remarries, whichever is earlier
 - If also eligible for Chapter 35 (DEA), must make irrevocable election of one chapter

H.R. 3230 Public Law 113-146, cont.

Veterans Access, Choice, & Accountability Act of 2014

- **Public IHLs and In-State Tuition**

- Beginning July 1, 2015: Cannot approve programs for which “covered” students, regardless of residency, are charged T&F that are higher than the in-state rate
- “Covered individuals” are
 - Ch 30 and Ch 33 vets discharged or released from active duty (≥ 90 days) less than 3 years before enrollment in the program, and
 - Ch 33 Fry Scholarship beneficiaries and TOE recipients
- **But:** IHL may require covered individual to demonstrate intent to become resident
 - Could require any type of proof of intent **except** “physical presence”

2016

P.L. 114-228 Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016

SEC. 415. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO APPROVE COURSES OF EDUCATION IN CASES OF WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCY BY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

Section 3679(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended--

(1) by striking "Any course" and inserting "(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), any course"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) In the case of a course of education that would be subject to disapproval under paragraph (1) solely for the reason that the Secretary of Education withdraws the recognition of the accrediting agency that accredited the course, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, and notwithstanding the withdrawal, may continue to treat the course as an approved course of education under this chapter for a period not to exceed 18 months from the date of the withdrawal of recognition of the accrediting agency, unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the appropriate State approving agency determines that there is evidence to support the disapproval of the course under this chapter. The Secretary shall provide to any veteran enrolled in such a course of education notice of the status of the course of education."

Public Law 114-315

Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016

- **Codified SAA Approval Authority and changed Compliance Requirements:** Provided that the state approving agencies were the approving authority in the states “or the Secretary of the VA...” Also allows more flexibility in compliance survey scheduling (over 20 veterans every 2 years) and clarified approval authority over NCD programs at institutions with deemed approved standard college degree programs.
- **Changed residency requirement as shown:** would amend section 3679(c)(2)(B) of title 38 to specify that a covered individual includes someone using education benefits transferred to them under section 3319 of title 38 when the person who transferred benefits is a veteran within three years of separation from active duty or a member of the uniformed services described in section 3319(b). Under this section, VA would be required to disapprove courses in which these covered individuals are charged more than the in-state tuition rate charged to residents of the State for the same program. This change would apply to courses and terms beginning after July 1, 2017.

Forever GI Bill

P.L. 115-48, Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (aka, “The Forever GI Bill”)

Became law August 16, 2017

Contains several provisions pertaining to approvals including:

- **Sec. 302:** Authorizes approval of accredited Perkins Act post-secondary **area career and technical education (CTE) certificate programs** and accredited Higher Education Act post-secondary **vocational certificate programs** offered by **independent study**
- **Sec. 305:** Authorizes VA to **disapprove** the programs of covered educational institutions that do not ensure their **SCO meets training requirements** developed by the VA in consultation with the SAAs [“Covered” institution is an “educational institution that **has enrolled 20 or more individuals” using the GI Bill** (eff. Aug 1, 2018)]

Forever GI BILL

Student veterans are among the most successful students in higher education today. Based on research from Student Veterans of America, the [National Veteran Education Success Tracker](#) (NVEST), it's clear that the investment our country is making in the education of veterans has an incredible impact on veterans, their families, and the country. The bill's passage represents a new era for education for veterans—one where we no longer consider the GI Bill as a “cost of war”, but more powerfully, a right of service. Among the many provisions, the bill achieves the following improvements and expansions of the GI Bill:

- **Ends 15-year limit on GI Bill usage, allowing all veterans who exited service in 2013 or after go to school anytime;**
- Provides GI Bill eligibility for reservists mobilized under selected reserve orders for preplanned missions in support of the combatant commands or in response to a major disaster or emergency (12304b, 12301h, 12301g);
- Provides GI Bill eligibility for reservists undergoing medical care;
- **Provides full GI Bill benefits for Purple Heart recipients regardless of length of service;**
- Extends Yellow Ribbon Program benefits to Fry scholarship recipients;
- **Restores used GI Bill benefits to students who experience permanent school closures while enrolled;**
- Increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service;
- **Creates pilot program for high-technology and computer programming courses;**
- **Expands education benefits for veterans pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees;**
- **Increases amount of fees paid to schools for certification of student veteran enrollments;**
- Improves GI Bill information technology system to fully automate claims;
- Increases monthly amount of educational assistance for survivors and dependents of disabled veterans;
- Increases funding for state-approving agencies to conduct oversight of schools; and
- **Allows GI Bill use for distance courses in technical and career education institutions.**

Isakson & Roe Act

P.L. 116-315, Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020

Became law January 5, 2021

Contains several provisions pertaining to SAAs including:

- **Section 1013.** Oversight of educational institutions with approved programs: risk-based surveys. This section requires the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to work with State Approving Agencies (SAAs) to develop a comprehensive program to conduct risk-based surveys. Effective: October 1, 2022.
- **Section 1017.** Grounds for disapproval of a course for purposes of the educational assistance programs This section allows for a course to be disapproved for GI Bill® enrollments if the institution does not comply with a risk-based survey by an SAA. Effective: August 1, 2021.
- **Section 1023.** Authority for SAAs to conduct outreach activities. SAAs are already authorized and routinely engage in outreach activities; this section merely codifies that outreach activities may be done. Effective: January 5, 2021.

Future of the GI Bill

The Future of the GI Bill: Opportunities and Challenges

- One GI Bill
- Enhanced VA Automation (including APP & OJT Programs)
- Risk Based Surveys: Veteran Centric, Programmatic, Meaningful Metrics
- Streamline and refine legislation to address egregious requirements and regulatory overreach.
- New Trends In Education & Training
 - On line/Distance Education
 - Accelerated Training Modules & New Methodologies



Questions?

