



A NEW G.I. BILL, THE “POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT” (S.22)

SUMMARY

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (S.22) is designed to expand the educational benefits that our nation offers to the brave men and women who have served us so honorably since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The bill would closely resemble the educational benefits provided to veterans returning from World War II. Senator Webb rewrote the legislation to incorporate nearly all of The American Legion’s recommendations and re-introduced the new S.22 in to the Senate in February 2008.

BACKGROUND

Our country has a tradition – since World War II – of offering educational assistance to returning veterans. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, the “GI Bill of Rights” is a historic piece of legislation, authored by Harry W. Colmery, Past National Commander of The American Legion, which enabled millions of veterans to purchase their first homes, attend college, obtain vocational training, and start private businesses.

The World War II G.I. bill paid for veterans’ tuition, books, fees, a monthly stipend, and other training costs. Approximately 7.8 million veterans used the benefits given under the original G.I. bill in some form, out of a wartime veteran population of 15 million. For every dollar invested in veterans, seven dollars were generated.

College prices have increased substantially, over the last twenty years. The average cost of tuition, fees, room, and board at a four-year public institution have increased by 278%. Currently, veterans’ educational benefits are administered under the Montgomery G.I. Bill and the rates are too low for a veteran to afford college. This program is designed for peacetime – not wartime – service and doesn’t account for hundreds of thousands of members of the Reserve Components or multiple deployments.

MAJOR PROVISIONS

- Increased educational benefits would be available to all members of the military who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001, including activated Reservists and National Guard. To qualify, veterans must have served at least three to thirty-six months

of qualified active duty, beginning on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits will be available after service.

- The bill provides for educational benefits to be paid in amounts linked to the amount of active duty served in the military after 9/11. Generally, veterans would receive some amount of assistance proportional to their service for 36 months, which equals four academic years. Veterans would still be eligible to receive any incentive-based supplemental educational assistance from their military branch for which they qualify.
- Benefits provided under the bill would allow veterans pursuing an approved program of education to receive payments covering the established charges of their program, up to the cost of the highest priced in-state public school, plus a monthly stipend equivalent to housing costs in their area. The bill would allow additional payments for tutorial assistance, as well as licensure and certification tests.
- The bill would create a new program in which the government will agree to match, dollar for dollar, any voluntary additional contributions to veterans from institutions whose tuition is more expensive than the maximum educational assistance provided under S.22.
- Veterans would have up to fifteen years, compared to ten years under the Montgomery G.I. Bill, after they leave active duty to use their educational assistance entitlement. Veterans would be barred from receiving concurrent assistance from this program and another similar program.

KEY POINTS

- **Currently, veterans' educational benefits are administered under the Montgomery G.I. Bill—a program designed primarily for peacetime – not wartime – service.** With many of our troops having served two, three or four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is past time to enact a new veterans' education program modeled on the World War II era G.I. Bill.
- **The G.I. Bill of the World War II era sparked economic growth and expansion for a whole generation of Americans; a more robust G.I. Bill holds the same potential for today's economy.** Educated veterans have higher income levels, which in the long run increases tax revenues. Approximately 7.8 million veterans used the benefits in some form, out of a wartime veteran population of 15 million. For every dollar invested in WWII veterans, seven dollars were generated.
- **A strong and reliable G.I. Bill will have a positive effect on military recruitment.** Better educated veterans also have a **more positive readjustment experience** and lower levels of post-traumatic stress disorder.
- **The education of our nation's veterans is a cost of war.** A very small percentage of Americans have stepped forward to serve our country through military service; they have

earned the right to have a bright future when they have completed their service. A G.I. Bill that properly rewards honorable service is the right thing to do.

IF NEW S. 22 WERE ENACTED TODAY:

- Mirrors the intent of the original “GI Bill”, The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944
- A veteran who has honorably served 3 years on active duty will receive on average \$67,900 for 4 years of school. (*indexing historical 6% annual increase)
- An average increase of \$28,000 for the total 36 month benefit (increase of 71%)
- The new education benefit will better meet costs for in-state costs of college. Benefits will remain significantly less than private institutions.
- Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program can allow for veterans to attend a participating college for nearly free
- New S. 22 accounts for the current Operational Structure of the Reserve Components while maintaining highest benefits for regular Active Duty servicemembers who serve a minimum of three years
- Excellent Readjustment benefit for transitioning servicemembers
- Creation of a new system that is indexed to the cost of tuition and the cost of housing will allow for this veterans education program to execute smoothly, effectively, and sustainably

**THE “POST 9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT MATCHES THE
AMERICAN LEGION RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE VETERAN
EDUCATION BENEFITS AS DEFINED BY RESOLUTION**

- **Raise the Rates**

The American Legion recommends that the dollar amount of the educational entitlement be indexed to the average cost of college education including tuition, fees, textbooks and other supplies for commuter students at an accredited university, college or trade school for which they qualify. Additionally, the educational cost index should be reviewed and adjusted annually.

The New S. 22 will significantly raise the rates of entitlement to nearly 100% of a full time four year public institutions. Tuition benefits will be aligned to the highest cost of in-state tuition & fees per state.

- **Equity of Benefits for Service on Active Duty**

The American Legion supports a Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)-Select Reserve participant reimbursement rate adjusted for time spent on Federal activation, State activation, and normal service for a period not to exceed 36 months.

The New S. 22 will account for members of the Reserve Components by awarding benefits based upon time served on Active Duty.

- **Recodification**

The American Legion recommends that Congress move the Montgomery GI Bill-Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP, Chapter 1607) and the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR, Chapter 1606) and from Title 10, United States Code (USC), to Title 38, USC, and that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have administrative authority for both the MGIB and the MGIB-SR benefits.

The New S. 22 will be placed in Title 38, USC thereby placing administrative control of all newly earned veteran education benefits under the VA.

- **Termination of \$1200 pay-in**

The American Legion supports the termination of the current military payroll contribution (\$1200) required for enrollment in MGIB. Additionally, The American Legion supports that enrollment in the MGIB shall be automatic upon enlistment. However, benefits will not be awarded unless eligibility criteria have been met.

The New S. 22 will not require a \$1200 contribution. MGIB recipients who have eligibility remaining and elect the New S.22 would be refunded some or all of their \$1200 contribution.

- **Portability of Benefits**

The American Legion supports eliminating the ten-year delimiting period for veterans to use Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits and supports legislation that would allow all Reservists and National Guard members to use their MGIB-SR benefits for up to ten years after separation.

The New S. 22 will allow for use of earned benefits for a 15 year period beginning on the date of a veterans last discharge or release from active duty.

- **Monthly Stipend**

The American Legion supports a monthly tax-free subsistence allowance indexed for inflation as part of the educational assistance package

The New S. 22 will create a new monthly stipend in addition to the cost of tuition.

- **Accelerated Payments**

The American Legion supports that a veteran may request an accelerated payment of all monthly educational benefits upon meeting the criteria for eligibility for MGIB financial payments.

The New S. 22 will pay the amount of tuition in a lump-sum for each semester/quarter/year.

- **Payment for Licensing and Certification Examinations and On the Job Training**

The American Legion supports that separating servicemembers and veterans seeking a license or credential must be able to use MGIB educational benefits to pay for the cost of taking any written or practical test or other measuring device. The American Legion also supports making the Montgomery GI Bill eligibility available to pay for all necessary civilian license and certification examination requirements, including necessary preparatory courses.

The New S. 22 will allow for payment for licensing and certification courses and examinations, On the Job Training, Tutorial assistance and others.

FACTS ABOUT VETERANS EDUCATION

- The Original “GI Bill” trained a total of 7,802,044 veterans from 1945 to 1964. From 1946 to 1952, the GI Bill trained an average of 2.9 million veterans per year.
- Since 1985, the Montgomery GI Bill has trained over 2.1 million veterans of the Active and Reserve Components.
- Since 2001, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are currently 2.4 million veterans who are eligible for Montgomery GI Bill benefits.
- Since 2001, 300,000 service members annually enter the private sector
- The Department of Defense (DOD) has reported that in the support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) from FY 2002 to FY 2007:
 - 2.4 million deployment events;
 - 1.6 million servicemembers have been deployed;
 - 540,000 servicemembers have more than one deployment;
 - 443,000 National Guard and Reservists have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001, for an average of 18 months per mobilization
 - Out of 540,000 servicemembers with more than one deployment, 103,909 are members of the Reserve Components
- A significant majority (95 percent) of Reservists served honorably on active duty for at least 90 days
- The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy) reported in its 2005 Demographics Report of the military that:
 - 4.1 percent of active duty enlisted members have a Bachelor’s or higher degree, while 94.1 percent have a high school diploma and/or some college experience.
 - In the past 15 years, the percent of Active Duty members who have a Bachelor’s and/or an advanced degree has decreased for officers (from 89.6 percent in 1990, to 86.2 percent in 2005) but has increased for enlisted (from 2.5 percent in 1990, to 4.1 percent in 2005).
 - Only 7.9 percent of enlisted members of the Selected Reserve have an advanced education above a high school diploma or GED equivalent.
- Currently, the Montgomery GI Bill pays at a 100% rate:
 - \$1101 a month or,
 - \$9909 a year or,
 - \$39,636 maximum over 4 years

NEWLY REVISED S. 22
“POST 9/11 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT”
ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

1) Qualification for the 100% rate will be 3 years

2) Tuition Benefits Aligned to the Highest Cost of In-state Tuition & Fees per state

This would amount to a huge increase in yearly benefits. Tuition will rise each year according to the highest in-state tuition of each state. The Department of Education reports that there has been a national annual increase of 6 percent each year for the last 30 years.

3) Tuition payments paid up front to servicemembers in the form of a credit/voucher

Allows for payment of classes in full in a lump-sum for each semester/quarter/year.
Reduces the need to take out additional student loans to pay for the remainder of college.

4) Benefits Earned at a Cumulative Rate for Service on Active Duty

Honorable active duty service would be the qualifier for education benefits. This accounts for 40% of the force (National Guard and Reserve). Benefits can be used after completion of a service contract or leaving of the military due to disability, hardship and other factors.

Reservist called to duty for any combination of length or multiple tours will receive benefits based upon time served. This accounts for equity of service.

5) Breakdown of Benefit by Cumulative Time Served for Service on Active Duty

3 months	=	40%
6 months	=	50%
12 months	=	60%
18 months	=	70%
24 months	=	80%
30 months	=	90%
36 months	=	100%

6) Re-Enlistment Kickers Continue to be added to the monthly stipend

Maintains the Department of Defense (DOD) authority to incentivize certain Military Occupational Specialties. Current kickers range from an additional \$50 to \$400 a month on top of the MGIB.

7) Creation of a Variable Stipend for Housing Allowance

Housing Stipend would be *in addition* to cost of tuition

Stipend tied to DOD Military Housing Areas (MHA).

369 MHA's nationwide which comprise all US Zip Codes

Average monthly stipend would be approximately \$1000 per month (higher in regions with greater MHA)

Actual Stipend is equal to the monthly amount of basic allowance for housing payable for a member with dependents in pay grade E5

MHA has risen on average 3 percent each year to match the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

8) Creation of a yearly stipend for books, supplies, equipment, and other educational costs

\$1,000 flat rate stipend in addition to cost of tuition and housing allowance stipend

9) Creation of “Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program”

Program which schools can voluntarily join to provide scholarships/grants to veterans to compensate for the difference between their normal education costs and what the maximum benefit S. 22 can provide.

A veteran that attends a participating school would receive up to 50 % of the remaining costs from the Secretary of the VA

50% of remaining costs from the VA in addition to S. 22 benefits

50% of remaining costs from college or university

In order to be eligible to participate in the matching contribution program with a university a servicemember would have had to serve an aggregate of 36 months or discharged because of a service connected disability.

- This would place a mechanism that would incentivize a servicemember to serve a minimum of 36 months on active duty to get a matching benefit of up to 50% of the remaining costs of college (if the school matches).
- This benefit would be *in addition* to all earned education benefits.

- This program has the potential to incentivize troops to volunteer for more active duty service thus helping the military complete their mission.

Mandatory outreach of colleges and universities that participate in the program

Pressure universities to ‘one-up’ each other or at least be honored to have this program.

Leads to schools wanting to participate in order to not be left out.

10) 15 year period to use benefits

Time period begins on the date of last discharge or release from active duty

Members of the Reserve Components who earn higher rates based on additional cumulative service would reset the 15 year time period to the last discharge or release from active duty

EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT SCENARIOS OF ELIGIBILITY UNDER NEW S 22:

Servicemember joins in Active Duty force.

- After 3 years of honorable service they will receive 100% of the full benefit.
- Currently, 1.4 million service members would become immediately eligible.

A member of the Reserve Components is called to active duty for 12 months.

- Receives 60% of new benefit and can use benefits immediately and after completion of service.
- Currently 450,000 service members would become immediately eligible.

A member of the Reserve Components is called to active duty for multiple tours.

- First tour is 12 months. Receives 60% of new benefit.
 - Can use new education benefits immediately.
- Called to active duty a second time for 6 months.
 - Now has total of 18 months of active duty service.
- Qualifies for 70% of the new benefit.

A member of the Reserve Components called to active duty for many deployments.

- If reservist serves 3 years on active duty they will receive 100% of the benefit.
- Currently, 110,000 service members would become immediately eligible.



PUCHASING POWER COMPARISON OF VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS

WWII ORIGINAL GI BILL BENEFITS:	1944 Dollars	Equivalent in 2007 dollars	Percentage of Total Cost of Four Year Public Institution (in 1944)	
Tuition & Fees	\$500	\$5,890		
Monthly Allowance	\$50 to \$75	\$589		
Total Average monthly benefit	\$550	\$1,243		
Total Yearly	\$4,950	\$11,191	100%	
CURRENT MGIB		Equivalent in 2007 dollars	Percentage of Total Cost of Four Year Public Institution	Percentage of Total Cost of Four Year Private Institution
100%			<i>National Average \$13,589</i>	<i>National Average \$32,307</i>
Tuition & Fees		\$1,101		
Monthly Allowance		\$0		
Total Average monthly benefit		\$1,101		
Total Yearly		\$9,909	73%	31%
NEW S. 22 BENEFIT		Equivalent in 2007 dollars	Percentage of Total Cost of Four Year Public Institution	Percentage of Total Cost of Four Year Private Institution
100%			<i>National Average \$13,589</i>	<i>National Average \$32,307</i>
Tuition & Fees		\$6,000		
Average Variable Stipend for Housing Allowance		\$1,000		
Total Average monthly benefit		\$1,777		
Total Yearly*		\$16,000	118%	50%
<i>*including one time stipend for yearly stipend for books, supplies, equipment, and other educational costs</i>				

NEW S. 22 ENTITLEMENTS

(*actual benefit would be determined based upon highest in-state tuition of each state)

NATIONAL AVERAGE COST OF TUITION INCREASES + 6% EACH YEAR

NATIONAL AVERAGE HOUSING STIPEND INCREASES + 3% EACH YEAR

NEW S. 22 GI BILL	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2018	2028
3 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$6,000/yr	100% AD \$6,000	\$6,360	\$6,742	\$7,146	\$7,575	\$8,029	\$10,745	\$19,243
Housing Stipend: \$1,000/month	\$9,000	\$9,270	\$9,548	\$9,835	\$10,130	\$10,433	\$12,095	\$16,255
Single yearly stipend: \$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Yearly	\$16,000	\$16,630	\$17,290	\$17,981	\$18,704	\$19,463	\$23,840	\$36,498
2.5 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$5,400/yr	90% AD \$5,400	\$5,724	\$6,067	\$6,431	\$6,817	\$7,226	\$9,671	\$17,319
Housing Stipend: \$900/month	\$8,100	\$8,343	\$8,593	\$8,851	\$9,117	\$9,390	\$10,886	\$14,630
Single yearly stipend: \$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Yearly	\$14,500	\$15,067	\$15,661	\$16,283	\$16,934	\$17,617	\$21,556	\$32,948
2 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$6,000/yr	80% AD \$4,800	\$5,088	\$5,393	\$5,717	\$6,060	\$6,423	\$8,596	\$15,394
Housing Stipend: \$800/month	\$7,200	\$7,416	\$7,638	\$7,868	\$8,104	\$8,347	\$9,676	\$13,004
Single yearly stipend: \$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Yearly	\$13,000	\$13,504	\$14,032	\$14,585	\$15,164	\$15,770	\$19,272	\$29,398
1.5 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$6,000/yr	70% AD \$4,200	\$4,452	\$4,719	\$5,002	\$5,302	\$5,621	\$7,522	\$13,470
Housing Stipend: \$700/month	\$6,300	\$6,489	\$6,684	\$6,884	\$7,091	\$7,303	\$8,467	\$11,379
Single yearly stipend: \$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Yearly	\$11,500	\$11,941	\$12,403	\$12,886	\$13,393	\$13,924	\$16,988	\$25,848
1 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$3,600/yr	60% AD \$3,600	\$3,816	\$4,045	\$4,288	\$4,545	\$4,818	\$6,447	\$11,546
Housing Stipend: \$600/month	\$5,400	\$5,562	\$5,729	\$5,901	\$6,078	\$6,260	\$7,257	\$9,753
Single yearly stipend: \$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Yearly	\$10,000	\$10,378	\$10,774	\$11,188	\$11,623	\$12,078	\$14,704	\$22,299
6 months cumulative AD Tuition: \$3,000/yr	50% AD \$3,000	\$3,180	\$3,371	\$3,573	\$3,787	\$4,015	\$5,373	\$9,621
Housing Stipend: \$500/month	\$4,500	\$4,635	\$4,774	\$4,917	\$5,065	\$5,217	\$6,048	\$8,128
Single yearly stipend: \$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Yearly	\$8,500	\$8,815	\$9,145	\$9,490	\$9,852	\$10,231	\$12,420	\$18,749
90 days cumulative AD Tuition: \$2,400/yr	40% AD \$2,400	\$2,544	\$2,697	\$2,858	\$3,030	\$3,212	\$4,298	\$7,697
Housing Stipend: \$400/month	\$3,600	\$3,708	\$3,819	\$3,934	\$4,052	\$4,173	\$4,838	\$6,502
Single yearly stipend: \$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Yearly	\$7,000	\$7,252	\$7,516	\$7,792	\$8,082	\$8,385	\$10,136	\$15,199
NEW S. 22 GI BILL	YEAR 0	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 10	YEAR 20

COMPARISON OF CURRENT GI BILL VS. NEW S. 22 BENEFITS PROJECTED RATES OVER TIME AT 100%

	YEAR 0	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 10	YEAR 20
Current GI Bill with average of 3% increase per year <i>Total Monthly</i>	100% \$1,101	\$1,134	\$1,168	\$1,203	\$1,239	\$1,276	\$1,480	\$1,989
	\$1,101	\$1,134	\$1,168	\$1,203	\$1,239	\$1,276	\$1,480	\$1,989
<i>Total Yearly based on 9 months</i>	\$9,909	\$10,206	\$10,512	\$10,828	\$11,153	\$11,487	\$13,317	\$17,897
<i>Total payout using 4 year projected increase</i>				YEAR 0-3 \$41,456	YEAR 1-4 \$42,699	YEAR 2-5 \$43,980		
3 yrs. cumulative AD	100% AD							
Tuition: \$6,000/yr	\$6,000	\$6,360	\$6,742	\$7,146	\$7,575	\$8,029	\$10,745	\$19,243
Housing Stipend: \$1,000/month	\$9,000	\$9,270	\$9,548	\$9,835	\$10,130	\$10,433	\$12,095	\$16,255
Single yearly stipend: \$1000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
<i>Total Yearly</i>	\$16,000	\$16,630	\$17,290	\$17,981	\$18,704	\$19,463	\$23,840	\$36,498
<i>Total payout using 4 year projected increase</i>				YEAR 0-3 \$67,900	YEAR 1-4 \$70,605	YEAR 2-5 \$73,438		
	YEAR 0	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 10	YEAR 20

Table 3. Percent of Average Price of Four-Year Public and Private Institutions and Two-Year Public Institutions Covered by the GI Education Benefit: 1985-1986 through 2007-2008
(in current dollars)

Academic Year	Monthly MGIB Benefit	Annual MGIB Benefit (nine-month academic year)	Four-Year Public Institutions		Four-Year Private Institutions		Two-Year Public Institutions	
			Average Tuition, Fees, Room, and Board	% of Price Covered by Benefit	Average Tuition, Fees, Room, and Board	% of Price Covered by Benefit	Average Tuition, Fees, Room, and Board	% of Price Covered by Benefit
1985-1986	376	3,384	3,859	87.7	9,228	36.7	2,981	113.5
1986-1987	376	3,384	4,138	81.8	10,039	33.7	2,989	113.2
1987-1988	376	3,384	4,403	76.9	10,659	31.7	3,066	110.4
1988-1989	376	3,384	4,678	72.3	11,474	29.5	3,183	106.3
1989-1990	376	3,384	4,975	68.0	12,284	27.5	3,299	102.6
1990-1991	300	2,700	5,243	51.5	13,237	20.4	3,467	77.9
1991-1992	350	3,150	5,693	55.3	14,258	22.1	3,623	87.0
1992-1993	350	3,150	6,020	52.3	15,009	21.0	3,799	82.9
1993-1994	400	3,600	6,365	56.6	15,904	22.6	3,996	90.1
1994-1995	405	3,645	6,670	54.6	16,602	22.0	4,137	88.1
1995-1996	417	3,753	7,014	53.5	17,612	21.3	4,217	89.0
1996-1997	428	3,852	7,334	52.5	18,442	20.9	4,404	87.5
1997-1998	440	3,960	7,673	51.6	19,070	20.8	4,509	87.8
1998-1999	528	4,752	8,027	59.2	19,929	23.8	4,604	103.2
1999-2000	536	4,824	8,275	58.3	20,706	23.3	4,720	102.2
2000-2001	650	5,850	8,653	67.6	21,856	26.8	4,839	120.9
2001-2002	672	6,048	9,196	65.8	22,896	26.4	5,137	117.7
2002-2003	900	8,100	9,787	82.8	23,787	34.1	5,601	144.6
2003-2004	985	8,865	10,674	83.1	25,083	35.3	6,020	147.3
2004-2005	1,004	9,036	11,426	79.1	26,257	34.4	6,375	141.7
2005-2006	1,034	9,306	12,108	76.9	27,317	34.1	6,492	143.3
2006-2007	1,075	9,675	12,837	75.4	30,497	31.7	na	na
2007-2008	1,101	9,909	13,589	72.9	32,307	30.7	na	na

Source: Table prepared by CRS based on data provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, data available from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), *Digest of Education Statistics: 2006*, table 319, and data available from The College Board, *Trends in College Pricing: 2007*.

Note: Monthly education benefits include any funds available for living expenses. The annual MGIB education benefit is based on nine months of education benefits to coincide with a nine-month academic year. All dollar amounts have been rounded. na: Not available

Table 1. Program Eligibility Requirements for Military Education Benefits

Criteria	GI Bill of Rights	Korean GI Bill	Vietnam- Era GI Bill	Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)	Montgomery GI Bill — Active Duty	Montgomery GI Bill — Selected Reserves	Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
Year enacted	1944	1952	1966	1976	1984	1984	2004
Initial authorization	P.L. 78-346	P.L. 82-550	P.L. 89-358	P.L. 94-502	P.L. 98-525	P.L. 98-525	P.L. 108-375
Highest benefit amount (current dollars)	\$500 per year maximum; and \$75 monthly subsistence	\$110 per month maximum	\$376 per month	Maximum benefit: \$8,100 ^a	\$1,101 per month (FY2008) ^b	\$317 per month (FY2008) ^b	\$880.80 per month (FY2008) ^a
Duration of benefits	One year full-time training plus a period equal to time in service; 48 months maximum	1.5 times the duration of active service; 36 months maximum	One month of education benefits for every month of active duty service; 45 months maximum	Lesser of 36 months or number of months of contributions	Lesser of 36 months or number of months of active duty	36 months	36 months
Contribution	None	None	None	\$25 to \$100 per month; \$2,700 maximum	Pay reduction of \$100 per month for the first 12 months of pay	None	None
Length of service	Minimum 90 days	Minimum 90 days	More than 180 days of active duty service	Minimum 181 continuous days of active duty service, if entered before October 16, 1981; 24 months of continuous active duty service if entered after October 16, 1981	Minimum 181 continuous days of active duty service; 24 months of active duty if enlisted after September 7, 1980	Accepted 6-year reserve obligation after June 30, 1985	Minimum 90 days of consecutive service in a contingency operation

CRS-6

Criteria	GI Bill of Rights	Korean GI Bill	Vietnam- Era GI Bill	Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)	Montgomery GI Bill — Active Duty	Montgomery GI Bill — Selected Reserves	Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
Period of service	September 16, 1940, through July 25, 1947	June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955	February 1, 1955 through August 4, 1964 (Post-Korean War); August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975 (Vietnam-Era veterans)	December 31, 1976, through July 1, 1985	Entered active duty after June 30, 1985	July 1, 1985, to present	After September 11, 2001, to present
Discharge status	Other than dishonorable	Other than dishonorable	Other than dishonorable	Other than dishonorable	Fully honorable discharge	Must remain with Reserve unit	OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE
Time limitation on use of benefits	Initiated by later of end of war or two years after discharge	Initiated by three years and completed by eight years after discharge	Within 8 years after discharge; 10 years for Vietnam veterans	Within 10 years of discharge or release from active duty	Within 10 years of discharge or release from active duty	Within 14 years of initial eligibility, if eligible on or after October 1, 1992 — prior to October 1, 1992, benefits must be used within 10 years of initial eligibility	Within 10 years of release from the Selected Reserve
Period of Use	June 22, 1944, to July 25, 1956	August 20, 1952, to January 31, 1965	June 1, 1966, to December 31, 1989	January 1, 1977, to present	July 1, 1985, to present	July 1, 1985, to present	December 9, 2001, to present

Source: Table prepared by CRS based on data available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

- a. Government matches every \$1 the service person contributes with \$2. The maximum benefit available under the program is \$8,100 (\$5,400 federal contribution and \$2,700 individual contribution). The total contribution (service person contribution plus government share) is then divided by the number of months the service person contributed to VEAP.
- b. Amounts shown are for full-time institutional training, and are for individuals who completed a minimum of three years of service. The amounts are less for individuals who served less than three years and who attend less than full-time. The education benefits payment rate schedule is available at [http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm].
- c. The monthly amount is a percentage of the MGIB-Active Duty and is based on the number of continuous days of active duty service. The amount shown is for full-time institutional training, and is for individuals who completed at two years or more of active duty service. The amount is less for individuals who served two years or less, and who attend less than full-time.

COMPARISON OF CURRENT GI BILL VS. NEW S. 22 BENEFITS OF PROJECTED RATES OVER FIRST 4 YEARS (2008-2011)

NEW REVISED S 22	4 YEAR DEGREE PAYMENTS STARTING FROM YEAR 0-3 (NEW GI BILL)	4 YEAR DEGREE PAYMENTS USING EXISTING REAP PROGRAM OR MGIB-AD	PERCENTAGE INCREASE COMPARED TO CURERNT MGIB
3 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$6,000/yr Housing Stipend: \$1,000/month Single yearly stipend: \$1000 <i>Total Yearly</i>	\$67,900	MGIB-AD \$41,456	Increase of \$26,445 161%
2.5 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$5,400/yr Housing Stipend: \$900/month Single yearly stipend: \$1000 <i>Total Yearly</i>	\$61,510	MGIB-AD 80% \$33,164	Increase of \$28,346 154%
2 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$6,000/yr Housing Stipend: \$800/month Single yearly stipend: \$1000 <i>Total Yearly</i>	\$55,120	MGIB-AD 80% \$33,164	Increase of \$21,956 160%
1.5 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$6,000/yr Housing Stipend: \$700/month Single yearly stipend: \$1000 <i>Total Yearly</i>	\$48,730	REAP BENEFIT ON SINGLE LONGEST DEPLOYMENT \$24,874	Increase of \$23,856 151%
1 yrs. cumulative AD Tuition: \$3,600/yr Housing Stipend: \$600/month Single yearly stipend: \$1000 <i>Total Yearly</i>	\$42,340	REAP BENEFIT ON SINGLE LONGEST DEPLOYMENT \$24,874	Increase of \$17,466 159%
6 months cumulative AD Tuition: \$3,000/yr Housing Stipend: \$500/month Single yearly stipend: \$1000 <i>Total Yearly</i>	\$35,950	REAP BENEFIT ON SINGLE LONGEST DEPLOYMENT \$16,582	Increase of \$19,368 146%
90 days cumulative AD Tuition: \$2,400/yr Housing Stipend: \$400/month Single yearly stipend: \$1000 <i>Total Yearly</i>	\$29,560	REAP BENEFIT ON SINGLE LONGEST DEPLOYMENT \$16,582	Increase of \$12,978 156%
NEW REVISED S 22			Average Increase of \$21,488

