

Colmery Act Section 107 – Monthly Housing Allowance FAQs

Question: I've heard the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance is changing. How will that work?

Answer: The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Forever GI Bill) changes the way the Post-9/11 GI Bill monthly housing allowance (MHA) is paid. MHA will now be based on the zip code where the student physically takes the majority of classes rather than the zip code of the school's main training location. VA is updating its Information Technology systems to accommodate this law.

Question: Why is the monthly housing allowance changing?

Answer: A provision of the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act passed by Congress and signed into law by the President changed the way the Post-9/11 GI Bill housing allowance is calculated.

Question: When does this change to monthly housing go into effect?

Answer: The provision of the law that makes the change goes into effect August 1, 2018, and requires extensive IT changes to our payment systems.

Question: Will the new payment system be in place for August 1?

Answer: We are targeting the new payment system to be in place on August 1.

Question: Where can School Certifying Officials get more information?

Answer: VA will continue to update students and stakeholders via our social media outlets: GI Bill Facebook page, Twitter, and our website. We are also offering informational webinars to learn more about the upcoming changes. The schedule for our webinars is:

Where: <https://vbatraining.adobeconnect.com/colmery/>
Dial: Conference Number(s): 1-800-767-1750; Participant Code: 37639#

When:

- Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 2 pm ET
- Tuesday, July 31, 2018, 2 pm ET
- Thursday, August 02, 2018, 2 pm ET
- Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 2 pm ET
- Thursday, August 16, 2018, 2 pm ET
- Tuesday, August 28, 2018, 2 pm ET
- Thursday, August 30, 2018, 2 pm ET
- Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 2 pm ET

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Thursday, September 27, 2018, 2 pm ET

For more information, please see our [GI Bill Facebook page](#) and our [website](#) for updates.

Question: VA previously asked us to hold certain certifications. Is this still the case?

Answer: It is no longer mandatory to hold enrollment certifications. If you do submit now, please be aware you may need to resubmit later if the student was taking classes in a zip code other than the location associated with the enrollment certification.

Question: What is the completion date for VA-ONCE modifications?

Answer: VA-ONCE modifications are targeted to go live by early August and SCO Webinars that outline the expected VA-ONCE changes have been scheduled for 2 PM beginning on July 17th.

Question: When will VA send out further announcements?

Answer: We will update this announcement as more information becomes available.