



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

July 14, 2021

Greetings School Certifying Officials,

We continue to make every effort to make you aware of updates and statuses of provisions based on Public Law 116-315, *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020*, signed January 5, 2021.

The law has a transformative effect on the mission of Education Service to provide ready access to, and timely and accurate delivery of, education benefits to Veterans, Active Duty Service members, and their eligible family members, and further enables VA to empower GI Bill beneficiaries to achieve their vocational and career goals. The purpose of this communication is to make you aware of upcoming changes on limitations on certain advertising, sales and enrollment practices as it relates to your GI Bill participation.

**Public Law 116-315 Section 1020:**

Section 1020 is effective August 1, 2021 to all educational institutions and amends Title 38 Section 3696 to include the following provisions.

- An educational institution may not misrepresent the following regarding programs or facilities
  - The accreditation of the institution
  - Student's ability to transfer credits to another institution
  - Conditions that the institution will accept transfer credits
  - Completion of a course of education qualifies the student to
    - Be accepted to a labor union or similar organization
    - Receive or take an examination for certification
  - The requirements for completing a course of study
  - Circumstances that could terminate the student's enrollment
  - Unsolicited testimonials or endorsements that recommend the institution by
    - Vocational Counselors
    - High Schools
    - Colleges
    - Educational Organizations
    - Employment Agencies
    - Private Industries
    - Current or former students
    - Federal, State, or local government officials

- Size, location, facilities or equipment
- Availability, frequency and appropriateness of courses to meet training objectives
- Nature, age, and availability of instructional equipment
- Number, availability and qualifications of faculty
- Availability of part-time employment or other financial assistance
- Availability of guidance, tutorial assistance, or specialized instruction before, during or after a course of education
- Prerequisites for enrollment in any course of education
- Type of degree, diploma, certificate or similar document awarded upon completion
- Authorization to award a degree upon completion
- An educational institution may not misrepresent the following regarding financing
  - Scholarships
  - Customary charges
  - Cost of the program
  - Refund policy
  - Availability of any financial assistance
  - Responsibility of student to repay loans
  - Right to reject any type of financial aid or assistance
- An educational institution may not misrepresent the following regarding employability
  - Institutional relationships with an organization, employment agency or any other training provider that leads to employment
  - Maintain placement service for graduates
  - Knowledge about current or future conditions of employment or compensation within the industry the student is training
  - Job market statistics
  - Disclosure factors preventing employment in the field of study as it relates to
    - Commercial driving licenses
    - Permits to carry firearms

Additional requirements are outlined to maintain a complete record of all advertising, sales, and enrollment materials for the two preceding years and made available to the State Approving Agency and/or VA upon request. Examples of advertising include but not limited to:

- Printed material
- Electronic material
- Radio and television transcripts and recordings,
- Social media postings on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Indeed, Craigs List, etc.

### **What do you need to do?**

As VA continues to review, interpret, and implement all provisions of Public Law 116-315, it is advisable that education institutions begin to review internal policies to ensure

compliance with Section 1020 by August 1, 2021. Additional information and communication will be forthcoming.

**For more information**

We are committed to regular updates through briefings, direct mail campaigns, social media and/or training as we move towards implementing each of these provisions.

If you have general questions, please contact the Education Call Center at: 1-888-442-4551 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday. Please contact your State Approving Agency (SAA) with questions regarding your program approval.

Thank you for being a valued partner in support of the GI Bill program.

Respectfully,  
Education Service