

Take Care of America's Veterans Act

On June 10, 2026, Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Representative Mike Bost (R-IL-12), chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs, introduced the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* (S. 4744 / H.R. 9237). The comprehensive bill includes a wide range of updates to veterans' health care, education, and workforce programs and benefits—the legislation is based upon changes proposed in [62 different veterans bills](#) that have previously been introduced in the House and Senate. (See the full section-by-section bill summary [here](#).)

The bill contains several important education-related provisions, including needed improvements and flexibility for institutions to administer veterans' education benefits. It also includes changes to the following programs across the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

- [DoD Transition Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#)
- [DoD Skillbridge Program](#)
- [VA VetSuccess on Campus \(VSOC\) program](#)
- [VA Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses 2.0 \(VET TEC 2.0\) program](#)

Further, the bill would increase the Post-9/11 GI Bill monthly housing allowance (MHA) for veterans studying fully online over the summer, as well as during the first year of a full-time apprenticeship or on-the-job training program. The bill would also allow veterans to use their VA education benefits to cover the cost of certain licensure and certification tests, college admissions tests, and tests that provide an opportunity to earn college course credit (i.e. credit-by-exam).

Elements of the package have broad support from higher education organizations and Veteran Serving Organizations (VSOs), but the overall legislative package has been met with significant VSO opposition due to the proposed funding offset. To cover the costs of the changes, the legislation would codify already pending disability rating cuts for tinnitus and sleep apnea, changes that were initially proposed by the VA in 2022, but have not yet been finalized.¹ This change could reduce disability compensation payments by nearly \$57 billion over a 10-year window and impact up to 1.5 million veterans.² Congress would fully offset the cost of this legislation by claiming these expected savings before the VA can implement the change.

Each section of the bill that impacts education benefits and programs is discussed in greater detail below, including the specific House and Senate bills that each section is based upon.

¹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2022, Feb 15). *VA proposes updates to rating schedule for respiratory, auditory and mental disorders*. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/includes/viewPDF.cfm?id=5764>.

² Veterans of Foreign Wars. (2026, June 12). *A grateful nation pays its debts to veterans — it does not send them the invoice*. <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2026/6/vfw-action-alert-tell-congress-to-oppose-veterans-benefit-cuts>.

Sec. 201. Vets Opportunity Act.

This section includes several key provisions that would provide flexibility and improve administration of veterans' education benefits:

- Currently, when a student serving in the National Guard and Reserve is called to service, colleges and universities are required to issue an “incomplete” grade. Subpart (c) would instead allow students to choose either: to withdraw from the course, take a leave of absence, or work with the institution to complete the course, providing greater agency and flexibility for service members.
- Subparts (d) and (e) would help to establish more reasonable compliance survey timelines and require the VA to notify school certifying officials (SCOs) within 14 business days of updating the SCO handbook.
- Subpart (b) would expand the GI Bill to include hybrid (part in-person and part online) independent study programs offered by Title IV-eligible institutions, after August 1, 2027.

This section is based on the bipartisan *VETS Opportunity Act of 2025 (H.R. 1458)*, a top legislative priority for the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA).³

Sec. 203. Monthly housing stipend under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program for individuals who pursue summer programs of education solely through distance learning.

This section would increase the MHA for student veterans enrolled fully online to the national average, only for the summer term. Under current law, fully online students receive an MHA equal to 50 percent of the national average. Student veterans enrolled in fully online programs would continue to receive an MHA equal to 50 percent of the national average for the rest of the academic year.

This section is based on the bipartisan *Expanding Access for Online Veteran Students Act (H.R. 5702)*, introduced during the 118th Congress.⁴

Sec. 205. Digital Communications: Solid Start Program; educational assistance.

This section would allow student veterans to opt-in to receive communications from VA regarding education benefits electronically, rather than by mail. It is based on the *Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act of 2025 (S. 2101 / H.R. 3481)*.

Sec. 206. Improvements to Transition Assistance Program and Skillbridge.

This section would make changes to TAP at DoD, which provides pre-separation counseling for service members separating from the military.⁵ It would also require the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study of Skillbridge, a program offered by DoD that provides an opportunity for service

³ National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA). (2026). *Veterans' Education Programs Issues and Legislative Talking Points*. <https://navpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/NAVPA-Leg-Agenda-2026.pdf>.

⁴ During the 119th Congress, the *Expanding Access for Online Veteran Students Act (H.R. 3753)* was reintroduced with an expanded scope; the bill would now increase the monthly housing allowance (MHA) for student veterans enrolled fully online to the national average year-round, rather than only for summer term.

⁵ U.S. Department of Defense. (2026). *Welcome to DoD TAP*. <https://www.dodtap.mil/dodtap/app/home>.

members to “gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of service.”⁶

Specifically, subpart (a) would change TAP to require:

- Service members who have accepted a full-time job or have enrolled in a higher education program to receive at least three days of pre-separation counseling, while all other service members would be required to receive at least five days. The section also allows for service members to attend pre-separation counseling a second time, space permitting.
- DoD, VA, and Department of Labor (DOL) to improve coordination and documentation of a service member’s counseling pathway; additional communication and reporting requirements are included for the agencies to improve counseling for service members with significant medical issues.
- Agencies to work with the same contractor, where possible, for pre-separation counseling to help provide for a smoother transition.

Subpart (b) would require GAO to conduct a Skillbridge study that highlights:

- Differences in Skillbridge program offerings across the branches of the military, including criteria for program participation.
- Best practices, including employer selection, contract development, and feasibility for making the program uniform across all branches.

This section is based on certain provisions included in the *Enhancing the Transitioning Servicemember’s Experience Act* (H.R. 3387), also known as the *ETS Act*.

Sec. 207. Transition Assistance Program: presentation in pre-separation counseling to promote benefits available to veterans.

This section would allow certified VSOs to give presentations during DoD-offered TAP classes to promote benefits available through the VA, including education benefits programs. The VA would be required to submit an annual report to Congress on the VSOs that participated in TAP classes, as well as the number of service members who attended.

This section is based on the bipartisan, bicameral *Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Promotion Act* (S. 3938 / H.R. 1845).

Sec 208. Elimination of requirement that on-campus educational and vocational counseling is provided by certain Department of Veterans Affairs employees.

This section would make changes to the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program, which aims to support veterans, service members, and qualified dependents enrolled in higher education through coordinated on-campus delivery of both counseling services and education benefits assistance.⁷ Through the program,

⁶ U.S. Department of War. (2026). *DOW Skillbridge Program Overview*. <https://www.skillbridge.mil/programoverview>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2026). *VetSuccess on Campus*. <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp>.

campuses are provided a VSOC counselor from the VA to provide counseling services. The program currently supports 104 schools across the country, located in 34 states and Washington, D.C.

Subpart (a) would allow counseling services on college campuses to be provided by other qualified counselors, rather than the existing requirement for services to be provided solely by VA counselors.

Subpart (b) would require VA to expand the VSOC program to all 50 states and U.S. territories, guaranteeing that at least one dedicated VSOC counselor is placed in every state to help transitioning servicemembers and veterans achieve their educational and career goals.

This section is based on provisions in the bipartisan *Ensuring VetSuccess on Campus Act* (S. 610), and one provision from the *Veterans Readiness and Employment Improvement Act* (H.R. 980).

Sec. 209. Expansion of entitlement for payment for licensing or certification tests for veterans entitled to educational assistance.

This section would allow veterans to use their VA education benefits to cover the cost of licensing or certification tests, nationally accepted college admissions tests, and tests that provide an opportunity to earn college course credit (i.e. credit-by-exam) that have been approved by the VA Secretary. The VA would be required to provide a notice to veterans warning that the use of their education benefit for a licensing or certification test “may not lead to a license or certification.”

This section is based in part on the *Military Learning for Credit Act of 2025* (S. 2328 / H.R. 4594).

Sec. 210. Increased amount of educational assistance paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for first year of a full-time program of apprenticeship or on-job training.

This section would increase a veteran’s MHA to 100 percent for the first year of their full-time apprenticeship or on-the-job training program.

This section is based on provisions included in the *Reducing Arbitrary Barriers to Apprenticeship Act of 2026* (S. 3993) and the *Warriors to Workforce Act* (H.R. 982).

Sec. 211. Improving emerging technology opportunities for veterans.

This section would expand the training offered through the VA Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses 2.0 (VET TEC 2.0) program, a program that was designed to help eligible veterans and service members develop skills to start or advance their career in a high-tech industry.⁸ Specifically, this section would expand the program to include training in emerging technologies, allowing additional providers to participate that offer training in fields such as artificial intelligence, semiconductor manufacturing, and other high-demand industries.

This section is based on the *Improving Emerging Tech Opportunities for Veterans Act* (H.R. 7103).

⁸ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (2026). *VET TEC 2.0 (high-tech program)*. <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/vet-tec-2/>.