

**Public Law 111-377**  
**Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010**  
(S. 3447)

**Title:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

**Mr. Akaka** of Hawaii introduced S. 3447 on May 27, 2010.

**Public Law 111-377:**

- Expand the definition of eligible members of the National Guard/Reserves, One Station Unit Training and requires Honorable Service Discharge. It would also align Coast Guard Academy service to other academies for eligibility purposes under Chapter 33.
- Provide tuition assistance at a private or foreign institution of higher learning in the amount of either (whichever is less) the net costs incurred after the application of scholarships and other tuition assistance programs, or \$17,500. This section provides a housing stipend to individuals pursuing the following programs of education: individuals attending a program of education on a more than half time, basis veterans attending an institution of higher learning on a more than half time basis at a foreign institution, and veterans attending long distance learning on more than half time basis.
- Provides active duty servicemembers educational assistance in the amount equal to the lesser of the net cost for tuition and fees incurred for a program of education, \$17,500, or the amount equal to the academic year beginning on any subsequent August 1 of every year.
- Establish the new tuition assistance in the amount equal to the net (out-of-pocket) cost for tuition and fees.
- Pay the following tuition assistance for individuals pursuing a certificate, or other non-college degree: the lesser of the net cost for tuition and fees of \$17,500, or the amount of the previous academic year beginning on August 1 of every year. Provide a reduced housing stipend and book allowance for non-college degree program of education on more than a half-time basis. This section expands programs of education to: OJT, apprenticeships, flight training, correspondence courses, and other programs.
- The monthly housing stipend rate beginning the academic year on August 1 will be determined by the rates in effect on January 1.
- Amend current law to allow more than one license or certification test.
- Cover national tests for admissions at an institution of higher learning or a national test to provide course credit at an institution of higher learning.
- Allow individuals who received recruitment and retention or kickers to convert that assistance into Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.
- Permit members of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to transfer benefits to their dependents.
- Bar duplication of benefits for certain education programs.
- Provide Technical Amendments.
- Extend the delimiting date for primary caregiver, transferees, and persons acting as a primary provider to a veteran or conditions beyond the person's control.

- Bar duplication of educational assistance benefits for National Call to Service participants.
- Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary certain authority to approve or disapprove accredited programs, compliance and oversight purposes.
- Increase the amount of reporting fees from \$7 to \$12 and from \$11 to \$15.
- Afford veterans to elect to receive a subsistence allowance under Chapter 33.
- Allow for interval payment when established by an Executive order or emergency situation.

**Cost:**

The Congressional Budget Office estimates a potential cost savings of \$1 million over the 2011-2015 period, and a savings of \$734 million over the 2011-2020 period.

**Effective Date:** Date of enactment.

**Legislative History:**

Dec. 13, 2010: Passed the Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.

Dec. 14, 2010: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and the Budget.

Dec. 16, 2010: House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the bill by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required) 409-3 (Roll No. 642).

Jan. 4, 2011: Signed by the President.

Contains provisions of H.R. 5933.