

## Education Programs

**If you served after September 10, 2001, and are currently using the WI GI Bill or plan to use the WI GI Bill, the following information is very important. Do not make an irrevocable choice to change to Post 9/11, Chapter 33 Federal GI Bill benefits until you have all the facts.**

The budget bill (Act 28) recently signed into law on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, will affect veterans who use the Wisconsin GI Bill. The legislation would **require** veterans eligible for the Post-9/11 Chapter 33 GI Bill to access Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits

prior to using the combination of the Wisconsin GI Bill and other Federal benefits.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun accepting Post-9/11 GI Bill applications on May 1, 2009, [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). **A veteran's choice to apply for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is irrevocable. The veteran should NOT make this decision until he/she has all the facts.**

Veterans with questions should regularly check [gibill.wisconsin.edu](http://gibill.wisconsin.edu). Sign up there for the RSS feed to receive alerts when updates are posted. The website will have information on the interpretation of the law and will let you know when you may need to take action. If you are a returning student and think you might be impacted by these changes, you should stay in contact with your School Veterans Certifying Official.

As we near the implementation date, August 1, 2009, VA continues to issue new policies and procedures regarding the program's administration. Federal rules and procedures do not take into account state programs such as the Wisconsin GI Bill. In addition, **Wisconsin veterans speaking to VA benefits counselors, who are unaware of state programs, will receive partial information that only deals with federal programs.**

These changes only impact veterans who are eligible for both the WI GI Bill and Post 9/11 Chapter 33 Federal GI Bill. If you did not enter service from Wisconsin or are not otherwise eligible for the Wisconsin GI Bill, you need not worry about the proposed legislative changes.

**For the latest information go to [gibill.wisconsin.edu](http://gibill.wisconsin.edu) or contact your School Veterans Certifying Official.**