

S93 Fact Sheet:
RELATING TO RATES OF TUITION AND FEES TO BE PAID BY STUDENTS
ENTERING OR ATTENDING STATE INSTITUTIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR IN-STATE
TUITION RATES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS FUNDING THEIR POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATION OR TRAINING WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS GI BILL.

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Background: Eliminating the SC state residency requirement while utilizing the GI Bill Education benefit for higher education will attract Military service members/Veterans. These men and women are a highly marketable and proven workforce. The passage of S93 will expedite these service members to complete their education, enter the job market, buy homes, and give back to the community. The passage of S93 creates short and long term economic development opportunities for South Carolina. Twenty-two states in the Nation have eased the way into higher education. South Carolina must be the twenty-third state to do so.

References: “Section 1144 of Title 10, as amended by section 221 of the [Veterans Opportunity to Work Act](#), makes participation in the [Department of Labor Employment Workshop](#) mandatory for all Service members.” The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the [Transition Assistance Program for Separating Service Members](#) details the transition instruction service members receive prior to being discharged.

This MOU outlines Federal Government responsibilities as well as content of the mandatory workshop. Service members are gaining valuable insight as to how to strategically plan (Goals, Plans, and Success (GPS)) their transition from their military service into their next successful career. Service members are learning what it means to be a genuine “Military Friendly” state, community, workplace, university, and marketplace. Service members are using various tools to assist with their Transition Plan.

Below are three of the most highly used tools by service members to obtain an initial overview of Military Friendly.

[The Student Veterans of America](#) recently placed an In State Tuition Map on their website that indicates the (22) states that waive any residency requirement for service members, their family members, or veterans using the GI Bill.

Last week, The Veterans Administration, Post 9/11 GI Bill website developed and launched a [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) that allows GI Bill users to compare education institutions. It logically walks the user through the necessary steps toward their next career. From career options, school comparison, choosing a school, applying for the GI Bill, school success, and employment. The tool identifies:

- School/Employer Information
- Veteran Friendly Indicators
- School Indicators

The White House has also published the [Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions](#) Serving service members, veterans, spouses, and other family members. This piece presents standards which veterans should be aware of when choosing where and what school they should attend to transition from the military into the civilian community. An [inter-active map](#) showing what higher education institutions participate in the Principles of Excellence program is available on the Department of Veterans Affairs website.

The above information is provided to identify that our service members are spending their last 12-18 months of their military service educating themselves on their successful transition, setting themselves up for future long-term success. *Like planning patrols or convoys, these warriors are seeking the pathway of least resistance that will lead to future success.*

Military members and veterans are looking to choose a state and an education institution that supports optimizing their GI Bill benefit. *They understand there is no free lunch, but they also understand the language of optimizing their hard earned benefits that are their springboard to their next successful life stage.*

Case Study: Utilizing the [VA's GI Bill Comparison tool](#), one can quickly see the economic impact the GI Bill has within a local community and or state. For example, researching the Fall 2013 semester for traditional universities using semesters to calculate credit hours, the following information is determined.

For one semester of school, the community surrounding Clemson University received an economic boost of Federal Government Dollars of \$1.3 million. This does not count tuition and fees the University received. (In addition to tuition and fees, on average, each GI Bill student receives \$1,118 per month (housing allowance) along with \$500 (book stipend) per semester (each semester equals 3.5 months of benefits used). The comparison tool indicates that Clemson has (498) GI Bill using students. For a conservative estimate, taking 60% of the 498 student count (298 students), the \$1.3 million figure is calculated. $(298)(1,118)(3.5) + 298(500) = \1.315m

Columbia and the surrounding communities received an estimate of \$3.187 million: $(\$1,296 \text{ per month})(3.5 \text{ months}) + 633(500) = \$3.187 \text{ million per semester}$. 60% of 1056 students (633 students)

Aiken and its surrounding communities received an estimate of \$410,590 last semester.

Conclusion: Early residency requirements should not be the stumbling block for future long term economic growth. South Carolina Higher Education and South Carolina employment opportunities, especially by schools and employers who desire to support and hire veterans, are strong incentives for service members who are seeking their next successful life choice. However, with twenty-two states offering greater incentives, South Carolina cannot afford to miss out on this key economic and patriotic position. These highly disciplined, career/community-focused veterans are looking for communities that will optimize their benefits, not frustrate them.