

Elevate Vets: Advocacy and Support for Military-Connected Students

September 22, 2022



This presentation is being recorded.



Resources will be available on the MHEC website post-event.



Submit questions in the Q&A.



Please complete our survey.

MCMC Contact



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About MHEC

- Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) was legislatively created and serves the Midwest census region (12 states)
- Governed by 60 commissioners plus commissioner alternates
- One of four regional higher education compacts (MHEC, WICHE, SREB, NEBHE)
- MHEC convenes higher education institutions, state agencies, federal agencies, and key not-for-profit organizations to share promising practices, policies and legislation related to the success of military-connected students in meeting their educational goals.



MHEC Resources on Military-Connected Students



Searching for prior presentations? Check out our past 34 recorded webinars at <https://mhec.org/mcmc>.



How can I be kept in the loop for future learning opportunities and news? Sign up at <https://www.mhec.org/subscribe>.

Today's Presenters



Will Hubbard
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Joshua Rider
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Proudly Introducing: The ElevateVets Network

Presenters:

Barmak Nassirian, VP for Higher Education Policy
Veterans Education Success

Will Hubbard, VP for Veterans & Military Policy
Veterans Education Success

Joshua Rider, Executive Director
Center for Adult and Veteran Services, Kent State University



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Who We Are

We are bipartisan policy experts, academic researchers, lawyers and advocates. We are veterans and non-veterans dedicated to bridging the military-civilian divide to ensure career and education success for military families. We provide:

- **Free Help for Military-Connected Students**: Free legal services, advice, and college and career counseling for the GI Bill.
- **Research & Reports**: Non-partisan research on issues of concern to student veterans, including student outcomes and federal oversight.
- **Bipartisan Policy Advocacy**: Non-partisan assistance policymakers to improve higher education quality and veterans' success and to protect the integrity of the GI Bill.
- **Civic Engagement**: Helping veterans participate in their democracy by engaging government officials and the media.
- **Legal Advocacy**: Free legal assistance for military-connected students and whistleblowers, and legal work building cases to stop college consumer fraud.



Our Mission

Veterans Education Success works on a bipartisan basis to advance higher education success for veterans, service members, and military families, and to protect the integrity and promise of the GI Bill® and other federal postsecondary education programs.

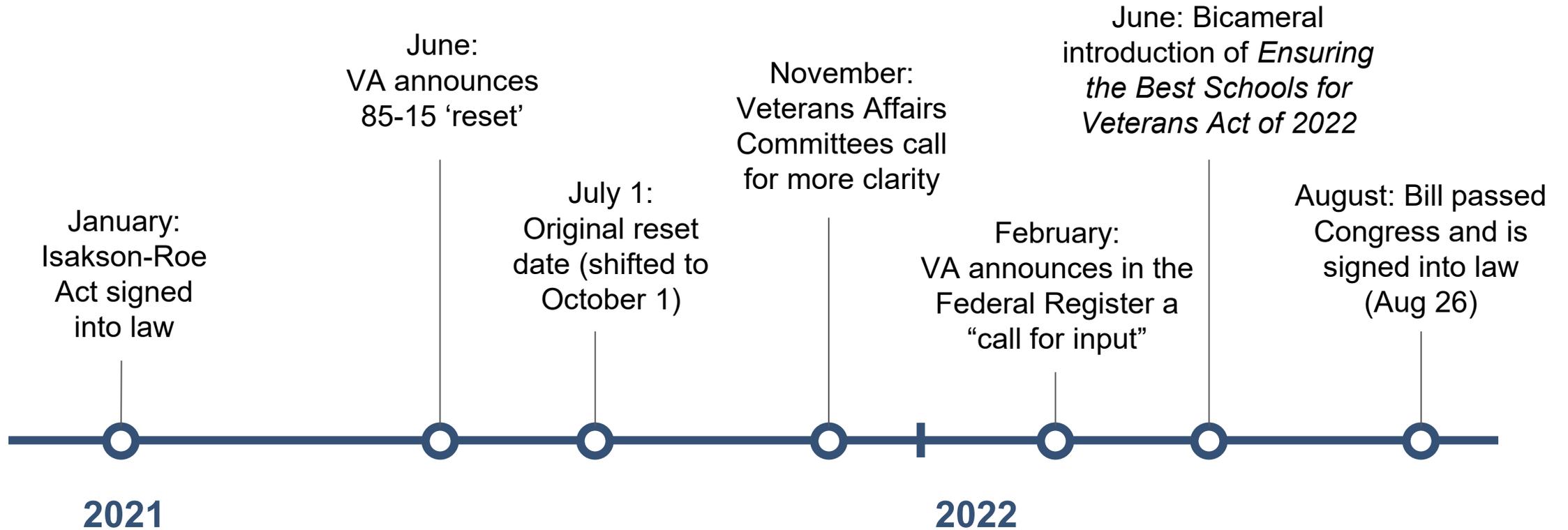


Legislative Overview

- **90/10 Loophole.** The [last hurdle](#) has been cleared, and we await the Department of Education's promulgation of a final rule.
- **Veteran Readiness & Employment.** Much improvement to the VR&E program is required still. For more on this, check out our recent [written testimony](#).
- **85/15 Rule.** After many months of debate, the President signed the *Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022* (S. 4458) into law.



A Brief Timeline of 85/15





Looking Ahead

- **Raising the Floor.** With ongoing examples such as ITT Tech, Westwood, Retail Ready, and House of Prayer, efforts to establish minimum standards through statutory and regulatory mechanisms are ongoing.
- **GI Bill Restoration.** Veterans who were defrauded out of their hard-earned GI Bill benefits should have a chance to get them back, just like Title IV students can make a Borrower Defense claim.



Introducing: Elevate Vets

- Intended as a resource for higher education professionals involved in administering programs funded by the DoD or VA and providing services to military connected students.
- Professional Development and Training
- The platform contains up-to-date information on regulations, guidance, or enforcement policies by the agencies.
- An evolving site based on stakeholder input and feedback to meet the needs of higher education professionals.
- 3 Engagement Points
 - Elevate Vets Page
 - Elevate Vets Network
 - Listserv



Elevate Vets Advisory Board



Joshua Rider

Board Chair. Executive Director,
Center for Adult and Veteran
Services, Kent State University



Mike Carrell

VP, Strategy & University
Engagement, National Veterans
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Director, Student Veterans
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Services and Director, Texas
A&M University System



Marshall Thomas

Director, Active Duty and
Veterans Affairs at California
State University



Janine Wert

Director, Military and Veterans
Services, UMass Lowell



Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Elevate Vets Advisory Board is to produce content that raises the awareness and understanding of higher education administrators. The content and working groups shall aid universities in supporting military connected students and lead to higher retention and graduation rates.



Elevate Vets Page Demonstration



The Elevate Vets Network

- The [online community](#) for higher education professionals
- Providing news, updates, and a place to share best practices
- Designed to enable peer support by building connections with other professional working with military connected students
- A hub to launch workgroups around topics of specific relevance to higher education professionals

We are interested in creating working groups on public policy, a self-audit process for School Certifying Officials, and one centered around veteran graduation rate comparisons.



Join the Elevate Vets Listserv

<https://lists.elevatevets.org/mailman/listinfo/elevatevets>

The ElevateVets list is a private listserv for campus veterans benefits administrators and college officials interested in advancing educational opportunities for veterans and military-connected students.

Just use the link above to subscribe!

We Want to Hear From You!

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Questions?
Feedback?