
CONSENT

Bill No: AB 1509
Author: Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs
Introduced: 3/3/25
Vote: 21

SENATE MILITARY & VETERANS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/14/25
AYES: Archuleta, Grove, McNerney, Menjivar, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/8/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Veterans: educational assistance

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: Codifies the California State Accrediting Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE) under the authority of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and gives CalVet the ability to administer the program and promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations as necessary to operate the program in accordance with state and federal laws.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law provides federal educational benefit awards members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States. (38 United States Code § 3001 et al.)

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes that CalVet within the state government has specific powers and duties relating to veterans benefits, including education benefits. (Military and Veterans Code § 699.5 et al.)

- 2) Establishes the Title 38 award program, which provides student financial aid to military veterans under the administration of CSAAVE. Requires an institution headquartered or operating in California desiring to enroll students eligible for federal Title 38 awards to apply for approval of its courses to CSAAVE, and authorizes CSAAVE to approve the application of the school when the school and its courses satisfy specified criteria and any additional reasonable criteria established by CSAAVE. (Education Code § 67100 et al.)

This bill establishes in statute that CalVet has the authority to administer and promulgate, amend, or repeal regulations under the Administrative Procedures Act relating to CSAAVE.

Background

Institutions that wish to provide Title 38 educational offerings in California must apply and be approved by CSAAVE before offering any educational courses. CSAAVE is responsible for reviewing, evaluating, approving, and overseeing schools and training facilities to ensure state and federal quality criteria are met for veterans using their G.I. Bill funds under Title 38. CSAAVE advocates for quality and diverse education and training opportunities. CSAAVE also assists the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in administering the G.I. Bill.

GI Bill education benefits may be used at qualifying institutions of higher learning (colleges and universities), non-degree institutions (vocational and technical schools), apprenticeship or on-the-job training, flight schools, and licensing and certification exams, where CSAAVE has granted approval. CSAAVE reviews the applications of institutions and entities seeking approval to train and educate eligible recipients of G.I. Bill benefits administered by the VA.

As a condition of approval, CSAAVE conducts on-site and technical visits to monitor compliance with approval standards and the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. CSAAVE also conducts liaison activities designed to provide information, interpretation, or assistance with understanding VA programs and compliance with Title 38. Additional responsibilities include:

- Conducting on-site compliance visits to educational institutions and training organizations with approved programs of study.
- Promote and safeguard quality education and training programs for veterans.
- Providing technical assistance with applications for approval.

In the event CSAAVE suspends or disapproves an institution or program based on a violation of Title 38, formal notification is provided to the institution.

Notification of school action is also made available to veterans or beneficiaries using GI Bill benefits, by posting information on the CalVet website. CSAAVE reports to USDVA on the status of each institution in California approved for the training and education of veterans and beneficiaries using GI Bill® benefits

Comments

Previously, CSAAVE administration was moved to CalVet from the Department of Consumer Affairs, as one of CalVet's direct missions to provide programs that benefit Veterans within the State of California. This was done through an executive order, rather than legislation. The Office of Administrative Law within CalVet identified a statutory authority issue when the department promulgated regulations relating to CSAAVE.

This bill affirmatively places CSAAVE under the authority of CalVet, including the ability to administer the program and promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations as necessary to operate the program in accordance with state and federal laws.

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, CalVet estimates minor and absorbable costs, if any. CSAAVE has been housed in CalVet since 2007, and is federally funded, operating under an annual reimbursement contract with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT 8/18/25

American Legion

Department of California

Amvets

Department of California

California State Commanders Veterans Council

Military Officers Association of America, California Council of Chapters

Peace Officers Research Association of California

Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council

OPPOSITION 8/18/25

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/8/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Boerner, Carrillo, Ellis, Jeff Gonzalez, Irwin, Celeste Rodriguez

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8/21/25 16:45:48

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