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Protect GI Bill Benefits, Veterans Urged

Veterans Administration today issued instructions as to that Birmingham veterans making last-minute plans to start or change GI Bill courses ahead of the July 25 cut-off date will not be prevented from doing so by any necessary administrative delays, Guy F. Palmer, manager of the VA regional office in Detroit, announced today.

"Since VA anticipates that some of the many late date applications cannot possibly be handled before the cut-off date, it was explained that today's instructions would serve to assure veterans of their full rights to GI education of training.

One of the changed procedures applies to veterans who intend to start GI courses commonly considered avocational or recreational, and who must show VA in advance that the courses will serve definite vocational ends. In the past, the effective date on which they could begin such courses was the date VA granted approval.

BUT SINCE approval takes time and there isn't much time left before the deadline, the effective date—once approval has been granted—has been moved up to the date the training begins or the date the veteran's complete application reaches VA, whichever is later.

So under this ruling, a veteran may file a complete application with the appropriate VA regional office and may start his course at the same time, but at his own risk as prior to the cut-off date.

Then, if his application is approved, the effective date would be set a date somewhat earlier than the actual approval.

Nevertheless, VA cautioned veterans, the training itself still must begin before the cut-off date.

VA emphasized that applications must be in "perfect and complete form", in order for its ruling to apply.

INCLUDED must be (a) a complete filled-out form; (b) photostatic copies of discharge and separation papers, and (c) either complete justification or affidavit stating persons who have first-hand knowledge of the use to which the training will be put.

A second ruling, effective today, pertains to veterans who plan to change their course before the deadline date. So long as their applications for the change are received by VA ahead of the date, VA said, pre-deadline change-of-course provisions will apply, even though VA can't get around to acting upon the applications until later.

THOSE pre-deadline provisions allow a veteran to make a first change of course merely by applying for it; a second change by undergoing advisement and guidance; and a third change only to a short, intensive course in a field essential to the national welfare.

VA advised those veterans now in training to remain in their current courses until they receive word to go ahead with their new courses.

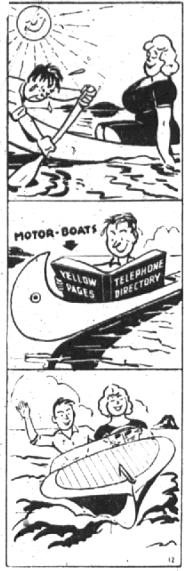
After they get their notification of approval, they have 30 days—or the earliest date in which enrollment in their chosen course is allowed—in which to start their changed courses.

In case VA does not approve their change-of-course applications, the veterans may continue their original training so long as there is no break in training except for reasons beyond their control.

VA URGED veterans to make sure their applications for change-of-course are complete. On the reverse side of the application form must be a statement from the original school or training establishment that the veteran's conduct and progress in his previous training has been satisfactory. That statement must be included in order for the applications to be valid, VA said.

The July 25 cut-off date applies to veterans released from military service before July 25, 1947, VA explained. Those few discharged afterwards have four years from their discharge date in which to start GI Bill training.

Under the law, most veterans actually must be in GI training by that time, except for interruptions due to reasons beyond their control, in order to continue afterwards. Also, once the date has passed, they may not change courses unless it's for certain limited reasons and they have VA's approval.



Articles for SOC Garbage, Rubbish Plan Approved

All member municipalities of the South Oakland County Garbage and Rubbish authority have now approved the revised articles of incorporation.

Each member now has to name a representative to serve on the board of trustees of the authority. Last week Birmingham appointed City Manager Donald C. Ebert and Southfield township's representative is William Roeser.

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M-64 — 30-30	— 32 Special
M-94 — 30-30	— 32 Special
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