

**Benefits for Education Administrative Services Tool
(BEAST)
Colmery Act Summary
Application Version 1.06**

Description This document summarizes enhancements made to the BEAST Web Application in support of the Forever GI Bill Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act.

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1.0 Forever GI Bill Colmery Act - Overview

The Colmery Act updated the Transfer of Post 9/11 benefits in the following ways:

- Veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies before using the entitlement. Dependents who received transfer of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill can transfer their entitlement to another eligible dependent, if the Service member or Veteran who made the transfer subsequently dies.
- Veterans who have deceased dependents that have been allocated months may reallocate all unused months to dependents that have never previously been allocated transfer months or to dependents with transfer months already allocated. The Veteran may not increase allocation to the deceased dependent. When the deceased dependent months have been reallocated by the Veteran to ‘0’ months, the Veteran may no longer add new dependents to the existing transfer request.
- If the Veteran is deceased, then any dependent who had months allocated prior to the death of the Veteran can reallocate these months to another eligible dependent of the Veteran. To reallocate a deceased sponsor months the dependent will need to contact the VA.

Note: Any months that were not allocated prior to the Veteran’s death may not be reallocated.

This law applies to deaths on or after August 1, 2009. A dependent to whom entitlement is transferred may use it beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

For more information

- Visit the US Department of Veterans Affairs Web site: [Forever GI Bill - Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act](#)
- For simple instructions on how beneficiaries use the TEB form in milConnect, see the topic “Changing Benefit Allocations When a Dependent Dies” in the milConnect Help.
- To learn more about TEB eligibility and to understand who beneficiaries are advised to call in which circumstances, see the section “About your Educational Benefits” and the question “What happens to education benefits when someone dies?” in the milConnect FAQ.
- To gain an understanding about the complete process of transferring and managing education benefits from a sponsor’s perspective, see the *Transfer of Benefits (TEB) Beneficiary Guide*. (available via milConnect Help in July, 2018)

1.1 Safeguarding Confidential Information

Only users authorized by the Defense manpower Data Center (DMDC) may access the Benefits for Education Administrative Service Tool (BEAST) Web Application. Furthermore, only authorized users may view information or be informed in any way of information available in the Benefits for Education Administrative Service Tool (BEAST) Web Application. Every authorized user must safeguard the confidentiality of such information at all times to comply with the Privacy Act of 1974. Before leaving your PC unattended, be sure to log off the

application. You can also lock your workstation for added security. See your system administrator for instructions.

1.2 Privacy Act Notice

Due to Privacy Act considerations, protected information such as names, Social Security Numbers (SSNs), and birth dates have been fabricated for the examples in this document.

2.0 Colmery Act Considerations

The Colmery Act provides enhanced transfer benefits for sponsors and dependents. When transferring benefits as a surrogate on behalf of a deceased sponsor, it's important to keep the following in mind:

- Wards and foster children are not considered dependents by the Department of Veterans Affairs, so they will not display as Colmery Eligible (CE) in the BEAST Web Application.
- The number of months you transfer cannot exceed the total number of months allocated to the Colmery Member (CM). The transferor or the transferee who becomes deceased are displayed as Colmery Members (CM) in the BEAST Web application and the TEB page in milConnect.
- The number of months you transfer must be equal to the number of months reallocated to all Colmery Eligible (CE) dependents. For example, if you reduce the number of months allocated to a Colmery Member (CM) by 10, you must allocate exactly 10 months to Colmery Eligible (CE) dependents before submitting the request.
- If you don't transfer all months from the Colmery Member (CM) sponsor now, you can make another transfer request on behalf of this sponsor at a later date.
- If you reduce the number of months allocated to a Colmery Member (CM) to zero and leave any Colmery Eligible (CE) dependents with zero months *and* the Colmery Eligible dependents are otherwise ineligible to receive transferred education benefits, these dependents once again become ineligible.
- You cannot transfer months to a Colmery Member (CM).
- You cannot transfer months that were used by a Colmery Member (CM) prior to passing. Only unused allocated months can be transferred to Colmery Eligible (CE) dependents.
- If a sponsor passed away before adding Colmery Eligible (CE) dependents in DEERS, you can add those dependents in DEERS before transferring months from the Colmery Member (CM). This way, the new dependents are eligible to receive months from their deceased sponsor now and can transfer and receive benefits from other dependents in the future.
- Children of sponsors who have passed must be at least 18 years of age before benefits that were allocated to them by their sponsor can be transferred by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3.0 Identifying Colmery Eligibility in BEAST

For basic education benefits transfer eligibility requirements, please see the BEAST User Manual or the TEB FAQ in milConnect.

In cases where a sponsor has died, the BEAST Web Application indicates Colmery eligibility for both the sponsor and any eligible dependents. **(CM)** for *Colmery Member* appears to the right of the sponsor’s name and **(CE)** for *Colmery Eligible* appears in the **Eligibility** column in the List of Family Members.

Service Member Name:	Paul F Blue (CM)*
Pay Grade:	E-08
Status:	Approved
Status Date:	2018-05-21
Site:	VA Service Representatives
Military Status:	Inactive
Obligation End Date:	2018-01-25
Sponsor Months Used:	0
Transfer months available to allocate:	21

Figure 3-1: Deceased Sponsor Flagged as Colmery Member

Educational Benefit Program

Post 9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33

List of Family Members

Relationship...	Eligibility...	Last Name	Name	Mid Name	Date	Trans Beg Dt...	Trans End Dt...	Revoke Dt	Trans Months	Months Used...	Transfer
Pre-adoptive child	Eligible	Cross		R	4-27	2014-01-26	No Data	None	1	0	Yes
Child	Eligible	Blue		B	4-27	2014-01-26	No Data	None	15	0	Yes
Child	Eligible	Blue	Colmery	N	4-27	2018-05-10	No Data	None	2	0	Yes
Child	Eligible	Blue	Cindy	V	1995-04-27	2018-05-21	No Data	None	3	0	Yes
Ward	Ineligible	Johnson	Tedd	C	2001-04-28	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Bella	W	2004-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Mindi	N	2006-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Brad	R	2006-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Spouse	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Crystle	V	1975-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A

*(CM) indicates that this Sponsor is a Colmery Sponsor
 **(CE) indicates that the dependent has enhanced eligibility under the Colmery Act.

Figure 3-2: Colmery-Eligible Dependents in List of Family Members

When the Colmery Act applies due to the sponsor’s death:

- For family members who have been allocated months prior to the sponsor’s death, the Transfer column displays **Yes** as a blue link. You can click this link to transfer months to another eligible family member.

- For family members who were not allocated months prior to the sponsor’s death, but who are eligible to receive transferred months posthumously due to the Colmery Act, N/A appears in blue in the Transfer column, but **Eligible (CE)** also appears in the Eligibility column. You can click the blue N/A link to transfer months to these dependents after the death of their sponsor. After you transfer months to these family members, N/A changes to **Yes**, indicating additional months can be transferred to and from these members at a later time.

When the Colmery enhancement applies due to the death of a dependent who was allocated months before death:

- In the Eligibility column in the Family Member table, **Eligible (CM)** appears indicating months allocated to this deceased dependent can be transferred to Colmery Eligible (CE) dependents.

Educational Benefit Program

Post 9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33

List of Family Members

Relationship	Eligibility	Last Name	First Name	Mid Name	Birth Date	Trans Beg Dt.	Trans End Dt.	Revoke Dt.	Trans Months	Months Used	Transfer
Pre-adoptive child	Eligible(CE)**	Cross	John	R	2001-04-27	2014-01-26	No Data	2018-05-10	0	0	Yes
Child	Eligible(CM)*	Blue	Kelly	B	1993-04-27	2018-06-06	No Data	None	36	0	Yes
Ward	Ineligible	Johnson	Tedd	C	2001-04-28	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Hilery	N	2005-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Bella	W	2004-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A

* (CM) indicates that the dependent is a Colmery Act dependent.
 ** (CE) indicates that the dependent has enhanced eligibility under the Colmery Act.

Figure 3-3: Deceased Dependent Flagged as Colmery Member

- In this case, the sponsor can use the TEB page in milConnect to revoke allocated months or reallocate months to another eligible family member. If the sponsor is unable to access the TEB page (for example, due to deployment), you can use the TEB surrogate page in BEAST to reallocate months on behalf of the sponsor.

Note: You can revoke months allocated to a deceased dependent back to the sponsor only when there are no Colmery Eligible (CE) dependents available.

4.0 Transferring Education Benefits as a Surrogate in BEAST

As a VA Official, you can use the BEAST application to transfer benefits to Colmery-eligible family members on behalf of a deceased sponsor or a sponsor who does not have access to the self-service TEB Web page in milConnect (for example, during deployment). A military Service Education Representative may also make reallocations on behalf to the deceased service member though the standard business practice will be the administration of these requests by VA Officials.

Note: In the case where the sponsor has died, dependents with allocated benefits that they want to transfer must call the VA. Dependents receiving transferred benefits cannot initiate a transfer.

To transfer education benefits on behalf of a deceased sponsor or dependent:

1. Log on to BEAST.
See the BEAST User Manual for detailed instructions.
2. Click **Transfer Education Benefits** to show the drop-down menu.

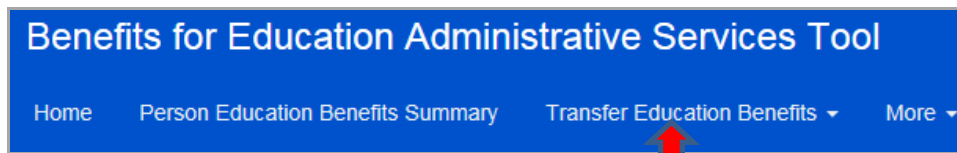


Figure 4-1: Transfer Education Benefits on Menu Bar

3. Click **Surrogate Transfer** to open Surrogate Transfer Page.

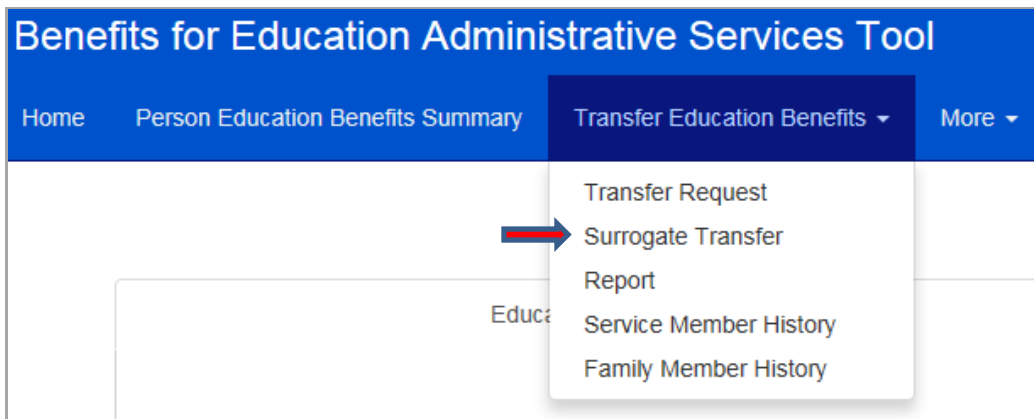


Figure 4-2: Surrogate Transfer

4. Enter a **Social Security Number** or **EDI** in the search field. The social security number must be 9 numeric digits with no hyphens and EDI must be 10 numeric digits.
5. Click **Submit**.

Surrogate Transfer

Service Representative

Name: Marco Mora
Site: A

SSN: EDI:

#####

SSN	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	F M D O B	Pay Grade	UIC	Tran Req Date	Election Type
-----	-----------	------------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	---------------	---------------

Figure 4-3: Enter User ID then Submit

6. Click the SSN link to display details for the sponsor.

Surrogate Transfer

Service Representative

Name: BONNIE Seaton
Site: Arr

SSN: EDI:

785107592

SSN	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name...	F M D O B	Pay Grade	UIC	Tran Req Dt	Election Type	Status	Status Dt
785107592	B	P	F	19	E-08	No Data	2018-05-23	5	Approved	2018-05-10

Figure 4-4: Click the SSN Link

The **Submit Transfer Request** page appears. The upper right area of the page displays information about the sponsor, including the status of the sponsor’s request and the date the request was last approved. If the sponsor is deceased, you see (CM) to the right of the sponsor’s name.

Months already allocated to dependents appear in the **Trans Months** column in the **List of Family Members**.

Submit Transfer Request

Service Member Name: Paul F Blue (CM)*
Pay Grade: E-08
Status: Approved
Status Date: 2018-05-21
Site: VA Service Representatives
Military Status: Inactive
Obligation End Date: 2018-01-25
Sponsor Months Used: 0
Transfer months available to allocate: 21

Message from Your Service Component

Approval Form

This transfer request has enhanced eligibility due to the Colmery Act.
For Additional information on the Colmery Act see User Manual.

You incurred a 4-year service commitment based on your transfer of eligible Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to your dependent(s). Your current service commitment end date is: Jan 25, 2018
Your current service dates indicate you have fulfilled the service commitment required to maintain your transferred benefit for your dependents.

Educational Benefit Program
 Post 9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33

List of Family Members

Relationship	Eligibility	Last Name	First Name	Mid Name	Birth Date	Trans Beg Dt.	Trans End Dt.	Revoke Dt.	Trans Months	Months Used	Transfer?
Pre-adoptive child	Eligible	Cross	John	R	1994-04-27	2014-01-28	No Data	None	1	0	Yes
Child	Eligible	Blue	Kelly	B	1993-04-27	2014-01-28	No Data	None	15	0	Yes
Child	Eligible	Blue	Hilery	N	1998-04-27	2018-05-10	No Data	None	2	0	Yes
Child	Eligible	Blue	Cindy	V	1995-04-27	2018-05-21	No Data	None	3	0	Yes
Ward	Ineligible	Johnson	Tedd	C	2001-04-28	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Bella	W	2004-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Mindi	N	2006-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Brad	R	2006-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Spouse	Eligible(CE)**	Blue	Crystal	V	1975-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A

Figure 4-5: Transfer Request Showing Deceased Sponsor and Colmery Eligible Dependents

In a case where a dependent has died, the dependent is marked as a Colmery Member (CM) in the **Eligibility** column in the **List of Family Members**.

Educational Benefit Program

Post 9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33

List of Family Members

Relationship	Eligibility	Last Name	First Name	Mid Name	Birth Date	Trans Beg Dt	Trans End Dt	Revoke Dt	Trans Months	Months Used	Transfer
Pre-adoptive child	Eligible(CE)**	Cross	John	R	2001-04-27	2014-01-26	No Data	2018-05-10	0	0	Yes
Child	Eligible(CM)*	Blue	Kelly	B	1993-04-27	2018-06-06	No Data	None	36	0	Yes
Ward	Ineligible	Johnson	Tedd	C	2001-04-28	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible	Blue	Hilery	N	2005-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A
Child	Eligible	Blue	Bella	W	2004-04-27	No Data	No Data	None	0	0	N/A

* (CM) indicates that the dependent is a Colmery Act dependent.
 ** (CE) indicates that the dependent has enhanced eligibility under the Colmery Act.

Figure 4-6: Deceased Dependent in List of Family Members

Each dependent’s eligibility to receive transferred benefits in the **Eligibility** column. The **Transfer** column contains:

- An editable **Yes** link for dependents who are eligible to receive transferred benefits.
- A non-editable **N/A** for ineligible dependents.
- An editable **N/A** link for dependents marked (CE) in the eligibility column who are eligible to receive transferred benefits under the Colmery Act and who have never previously received transferred benefits.
- An editable **Yes** link for dependents marked (CE) in the eligibility column who have received transferred benefits in the past and are eligible to receive additional transferred benefits due to the Colmery Act.

7. Click a **N/A** or **Yes** link to transfer benefits to an eligible Colmery dependent.

The Transfer Months page appears.

Transfer Months

Name: CA

Family Member: TAI
Relationship: Child
Date of Birth: 1994-07-31

Transfer Begin Date: 1969-12-31

Transfer End Date: May 2017


Transfer Months: 3

Revoke Transferability

* Changes on this page are not complete until you submit or resubmit the transfer request from the Submit Transfer Request Page

Submit Return

Figure 4-7: Setting Transfer Dates

8. Set **Transfer Begin date**.
9. Set **Transfer End Date** (Date must be after Transfer Begin Date) the end date must be at least until the end of the transfer months.
10. Enter **Transfer Months**. Value must be a numeric value. One month is the minimum transfer length to allow transaction. The maximum length is 36 months or until all available transfer months are used.
 - Type a month ranging from 1 to 36
 - Click the up or down arrows  to increase or decrease month between 1 to 36.

Note:

- The number of months you reduce from the Colmery Member (CM) dependent must match exactly the combined number of months you transfer to Colmery Eligible (CE) dependents.
 - The number of months you transfer cannot exceed the total number of months originally allocated to the Colmery Member (CM) dependent.
11. Click the **Submit** button in the Transfer Months page. This action will take you back to **Submit Transfer Request** page. If you have been asked to transfer months to another dependent at this time, simply repeat steps 2 through 5 allocating months to other eligible dependents.

• If there are any questions regarding your family members, please contact your service personnel center.

• To determine your remaining months of entitlement, contact The Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to speak with a Veterans Benefits Counselor or visit their website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

Transferability of Education Benefits Acknowledgements

a) I am eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the program I am applying to transfer.

b) I understand I may transfer up to 36 months (or my remaining months of eligibility, whichever is less) of my education benefits to spouse and/or children, and can modify or revoke my election at any time.

c) I understand that my spouse may use the benefit immediately and children (ages 18-26) after I have served 10 years.

d) I understand and agree to remain in the Armed Forces for the period required. I understand that failure to complete that service may lead to an overpayment by the Department of Veterans Affairs for any payments made (Service documentation will remain on file with the Service).

e) I understand that I am responsible for any overpayments due to not completing my additional obligated term of service agreement.

f) I understand that in order to request this transfer, if I'm eligible for the MGIB (Chapter 30, 38 USC), or the MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606, 10 USC) or REAP (Chapter 1607, 10 USC), I am converting from that program to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This conversion is irrevocable.

g) I may not receive more than a total of 48 months of benefits under two or more programs.

h) If electing Chapter 33 in lieu of Chapter 30, my months of entitlement under Chapter 33 will be limited to the number of months of entitlement remaining under Chapter 30 on the effective date of my election. However, if I completely exhaust my entitlement remaining under Chapter 30 before the effective date of my Chapter 33 election, I may receive up to 12 additional months of benefits under Chapter 33.

i) My conversion to the Post-9/11 GI Bill is *irrevocable* and may not be changed. However, I retain the right to change or modify months of entitlement at any time until they are exhausted.


 Approval Form

Figure 4-8: Transferability Acknowledgments

12. Read each acknowledgement aloud to the sponsor or dependent, clicking checkboxes as you work down the list.

All Acknowledgements must be selected to continue.

13. Click **Submit** or click **Return** to cancel the Transfer Request.