

## Be Mindful of Nonresident Tuition Fees!

Although a growing number of states are adopting legislation so that nonresident veterans are charged in state tuition at public colleges and universities; California is not among them.



Currently, if you are a veteran who is a resident of another state you have to pay nonresident tuition fees and wait one year to establish your residency. At CSUSB, nonresident tuition fees are \$248 per unit. These fees are on top of the charges for residents and apply to all nonresidents of California. WICHE WUE (Western University Exchange Program) student participants pay 150% of the tuition fee and do not pay non-resident tuition fees. The only exception for nonresident vets is the one-year nonresident tuition exemption to

be used within two years for former military service members who have resided in California for more than one year prior to being honorably discharged from active federal service--In simpler terms service members stationed in California.



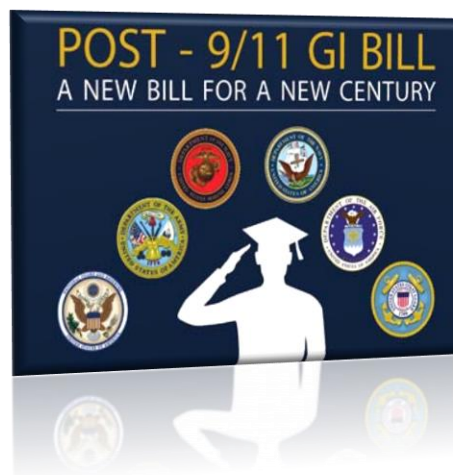
On the national front, Congressman Jeff Miller (R-FL) sponsored H.R.357 - GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2014. The GI Bill

Fairness Act was introduced specifically to help veterans qualify for in-state tuition, even if they are not state residents. This bill would allow veterans to stretch their valuable GI Bill benefits even further and reduce out-of-

pocket expenses or loans to cover the nonresident tuition fees. Below is a brief summary of the act:

“GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2014 - (Sec. 3) Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), for purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary, to disapprove courses of education provided by a public educational institution that does not charge tuition and fees for veterans at the same rate that is charged for in-state residents, regardless of the veteran's state of residence. Provides for the treatment of veterans enrolled in courses at such institutions before July 1, 2015”(Bill Summary & Status, 113th Congress (2013 - 2014), H.R.357).

Student Veterans of America Executive Director Mike Dakduk remarked last year, “Ultimately, this becomes a financial burden that leaves veterans vying for additional financial aid due to out-of-state residency status. It’s troubling to me that as a country we find no cost too great to send America’s sons and daughters off to war, yet when they remove the uniform some institutions find reasons not to give veterans the full support they have earned. Veterans served our nation in its entirety, not just one state. This bill reflects that.”



My words of advice are if you are considering attending school in a state other than your state of residence; ask the school's advisors what their nonresident policy is for veterans and what additional nonresident tuition fees you will have to pay. The GI Bill will not cover these additional fees and you will have to pay for them out of pocket or through financial aid. I have encountered a few veterans who were unaware of CSUSB's policy and were very unhappy when the additional fees hit their student accounts.