



Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014

Report to the Board of Regents

March 5, 2015

- PL 113-146 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act 2014 (Section 702)
- Requires VA disapproval of programs of education if a school charges non-resident tuition and fees to all covered individuals who live in the state in which the public institution is located
- Effective date **July 1, 2015**



Covered Individuals

- Covered individuals
(Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bills Only)
- **Veterans** who enroll within 3 years of discharge after serving 90 days or more on active duty
- **Spouses and Children using transferred entitlement** within 3 years of the transferor's discharge after serving 90 days or more on active duty
- **Surviving Spouses or Children under the Fry Scholarship** who enroll within 3 years of an active duty Servicemember's death in the line of duty after serving 90 days or more
- **Once enrolled**, individuals remain covered as long as they are continuously enrolled at the same school



Limitations

- Does not guarantee or require in-State tuition and fee charges to all Ch 33 or Ch 30 recipients
- VA cannot compel a school to charge covered individuals the resident rates
- VA will disapprove the impacted programs if school does not charge resident rates



Summary

- Qualifying individuals – basically Post 9/11 veterans or their dependents who physically reside in Montana would be exempt from additional residency requirements as it relates to tuition and fees – other than to physically reside in Montana
- If the MUS does not comply, then we would lose VA funding of approximately \$15 million
- The changes from PL 113-146, Section 702 will cause a \$2.5 million reduction in Yellow Ribbon and tuition revenue annually



Next Steps



- Policy language related to residency requirements finalized by legal staff
 - Likely exemption to residency requirements for this specific group of students
- Submit proposed policy language to Veterans Administration for approval
- Submit proposed policy language to Board of Regents for approval at May meeting
- Develop a system-wide implementation workgroup