ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Louisville, Kentucky
September 1, 2, 3, 2026

Resolution No. 49: Housing Continuity During Short Academic Breaks
Origin: Florida
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, The American Legion represents and supports over 2.5 million wartime veterans and is founded on its Four Pillars, including Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The successful transition of veterans into civilian life depends in part on access to education, financial stability and the ability to meet basic living needs without disruption; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans face ongoing challenges during this transition, including financial strain and housing insecurity, where instability can worsen outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that over 50% of student veterans have experienced housing insecurity, highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by this population; and

WHEREAS, The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides a monthly housing allowance that student veterans depend on to maintain stable housing while pursuing higher education; and

WHEREAS, Housing payments are authorized under 38 U.S.C. § 3313 and implemented through 38 C.F.R. § 21.9640, where payments are tied to enrollment periods, resulting in gaps in housing support during breaks between academic terms, even when student veterans remain enrolled full-time across consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, Short academic breaks, including winter breaks that typically last up to 21 days, create periods during which housing payments stop while rent, utilities, groceries, child care and other essential expenses continue; and

WHEREAS, For many student veterans, this gap can force difficult financial tradeoffs that jeopardize housing stability and increase the risk of homelessness during a critical point in their academic progress; and

WHEREAS, This gap exists due to changes enacted under Public Law 111-377, which tied housing payments directly to days of enrollment; and

WHEREAS, Providing housing continuity during short academic breaks would reduce housing and food insecurity and support student veterans in completing their education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 1, 2, 3, 2026, That The American Legion urges Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure housing continuity during short academic breaks of 30 days or less for student veterans who remain enrolled full-time across consecutive academic terms; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That such policy should include appropriate safeguards, including full-time enrollment, confirmed registration for the subsequent academic term and maintenance of satisfactory academic progress, to ensure the policy remains targeted, responsible and does not constitute an expansion of existing GI Bill benefits.