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## OLR Bill Analysis

**sHB 6483 (as amended by House "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires local and regional boards of education to accept, as proof of residency for any child of an armed forces member who is seeking enrollment in a public school, the military orders directing the member to the state or any other armed forces' documents indicating the member's transfer to the state. By law and under the bill, "armed forces" means the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service.

The bill also requires the State Board of Education (SBE), within available appropriations, to establish a Purple Star School Program to designate schools that provide specific support services, assistance, and initiatives for military-connected students and their families. Under the bill, a "military-connected student" is a public-school student who (1) is a dependent of a current or former armed forces member or (2) was a dependent of a member killed in the line of duty.

\*House Amendment "A" (1) requires boards of education to accept other armed forces documents indicating the member's transfer to the state as proof of residency, rather than allowing them to specify the required documentation, and (2) adds the qualification that SBE establish the Purple Star School Program within available appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

#### **PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM**

##### ***Eligible Schools***

Under the bill, SBE must establish the Purple Star School program within available appropriations and award a Purple Star School designation to any public school that does the following:

1. employs a staff member as the school's military liaison, as described below;
2. compiles and posts on its website specified information and resources available to military-connected students and their families;
3. provides a transition program for military-connected students that is student-led, where appropriate;
4. provides in-service training or professional development for staff members on issues related to military-connected students; and
5. offers at least one of the initiatives described below.

***School Military Liaison.*** Under the bill, the school's military liaison's duties must include (1) identifying military-connected students enrolled there, (2) serving as the point of contact between the school and these students and their families, (3) identifying appropriate school services available to military-connected students, and (4) assisting in coordinating school programs relevant to military-connected students.

***Website Information and Resources.*** To qualify for the designation, a school must post on its website, at a minimum:

1. the registration process for enrolling and transferring student records to the school;
2. academic planning, including curriculum and advanced placement classes offered at the school;
3. counseling and other support services available for military-connected students enrolled there; and

4. the school's military liaison's contact information.

**Initiatives.** To qualify for the designation, the school must provide at least one of the following:

1. a resolution showing support for military-connected students and families;
2. recognition of the Month of the Military Child or Military Family Month, with relevant school-hosted events; or
3. a partnership with a local military installation providing opportunities for active duty armed forces members to volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip.

**Application Process**

Under the bill, boards of education may apply to SBE for the designation for any school under their jurisdiction that meets the eligibility requirements described above.

**Partnership With the State Department of Education (SDE)**

The bill allows boards of education to partner with SDE to provide assistance or materials for the initiatives or in-service training and professional development described above.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 49 Nay 0 (05/10/2021)