



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 267

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6483

House of Representatives, April 6, 2021

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-186 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2021*):

4 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall furnish, by
5 transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child
6 five years of age and over and under twenty-one years of age who is not
7 a graduate of a high school or technical education and career school may
8 attend public school, except as provided in section 10-233c and
9 subsection (d) of section 10-233d. For purposes of establishing the
10 residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in
11 section 27-103, and who is seeking enrollment in a school under the
12 jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education for a town in which
13 such child is not yet a resident, such board shall accept the military

14 orders directing such member to the state, or any other documents such
15 board may require, as proof of residency. Any board of education which
16 denies school accommodations, including a denial based on an issue of
17 residency, to any such child shall inform the parent or guardian of such
18 child or the child, in the case of an emancipated minor, a pupil eighteen
19 years of age or older or an unaccompanied youth, as described in 42
20 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, of his or her right to request
21 a hearing by the board of education in accordance with the provisions
22 of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. A board of education
23 which has denied school accommodations shall advise the board of
24 education under whose jurisdiction it claims such child should be
25 attending school of the denial. For purposes of this section, (1) a "parent
26 or guardian" shall include a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to
27 section 10-94g, and (2) a child residing in a dwelling located in more
28 than one town in this state shall be considered a resident of each town
29 in which the dwelling is located and may attend school in any one of
30 such towns. For purposes of this subsection, "dwelling" means a single,
31 two or three-family house or a condominium unit.

32 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section,
33 "military-connected student" means a student enrolled in a public
34 school who (1) is a dependent of a current or former member of the
35 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes, or (2)
36 was a dependent of a member of the armed forces who was killed in the
37 line of duty.

38 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish a Purple Star School
39 Program. The state board shall award a Purple Star School designation
40 to any school that (1) employs a staff member who serves as a military
41 liaison for the school and whose duties include (A) identifying military-
42 connected students enrolled at the school, (B) serving as the point of
43 contact between the school and military-connected students and their
44 families, (C) identifying appropriate school services available to
45 military-connected students, and (D) assisting in coordinating school
46 programs relevant to military-connected students; (2) compiles and
47 makes available on the Internet web site for the school, information and

48 resources available to military-connected students and their families,
 49 including, but not limited to, (A) the registration process for enrollment
 50 and the transferring of student records to the school, (B) academic
 51 planning, including curriculum and advanced placement classes offered
 52 at the school, (C) counseling and other support services available for
 53 military-connected students enrolled at the school, and (D) the contact
 54 information for the military liaison of the school; (3) provides a
 55 transition program led by students, where appropriate, that assists
 56 military-connected students in transitioning to the school; (4) provides
 57 in-service training or professional development for staff members on
 58 issues related to military-connected students; and (5) offers at least one
 59 of the following initiatives: (A) A resolution showing support for
 60 military-connected students and their families, (B) recognition of the
 61 Month of the Military Child or Military Family Month, with relevant
 62 events hosted by the school, or (C) a partnership with a local military
 63 installation that provides opportunities for active duty members of the
 64 armed forces to volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly or host a
 65 field trip.

66 (c) A local or regional board of education may apply to the State
 67 Board of Education, in a manner and form prescribed by the state board,
 68 for the Purple Star School designation for any school under the
 69 jurisdiction of such local or regional board that satisfies the
 70 requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

71 (d) A local or regional board of education may partner with the
 72 Department of Education to provide assistance or materials for the (1)
 73 provision of the in-service training or professional development
 74 described in subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section, or (2)
 75 offering of an initiative described in subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of
 76 this section.

| | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | July 1, 2021 | 10-186(a) |
| Sec. 2 | July 1, 2021 | New section |

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 22 \$ | FY 23 \$ |
|--|-------------|----------|----------|
| Education, Dept. | GF - Cost | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹ | GF - Cost | 24,780 | 24,780 |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in an annual cost of approximately \$84,780, beginning in FY 22, associated with a part-time Program Development Coordinator within the State Department of Education, with a salary of \$60,000 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$24,780. The newly established position would be responsible for establishing and maintaining the Purple Star School Program, including providing in-service training and professional development for staff members on issues related to military-connected students.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6483*****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 the town's schools, the military orders directing the member to the state or any other documents the board may require. 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) 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM***Eligible Schools***

Under the bill, SBE must award a Purple Star School designation to any 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, 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)