



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6483

LCO No. 3630



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*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, and any other documents

15 such board may require, as proof of residency. Any board of education
16 which denies school accommodations, including a denial based on an
17 issue of residency, to any such child shall inform the parent or guardian
18 of such child or the child, in the case of an emancipated minor, a pupil
19 eighteen years of age or older or an unaccompanied youth, as described
20 in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, of his or her right to
21 request a hearing by the board of education in accordance with the
22 provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. A board of
23 education which has denied school accommodations shall advise the
24 board of education under whose jurisdiction it claims such child should
25 be attending school of the denial. For purposes of this section, (1) a
26 "parent or guardian" shall include a surrogate parent appointed
27 pursuant to section 10-94g, and (2) a child residing in a dwelling located
28 in more than one town in this state shall be considered a resident of each
29 town in which the dwelling is located and may attend school in any one
30 of such towns. For purposes of this subsection, "dwelling" means a
31 single, 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	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-186(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow military orders to be accepted as proof of residency for the purpose of enrollment in a public school by children of members of the armed forces and to establish a Purple Star School Program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]