

HOUSE BILL 782

F1

11r2324

By: **Delegate Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Purple Star Schools Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Purple Star Schools Program; providing for the
4 purpose of the Program; requiring the State Department of Education to administer
5 the Program and designate a public school as a Purple Star School under certain
6 circumstances; establishing the qualifications for the designation of a Purple Star
7 School, including the provision of certain services and supports for
8 military-connected students and their families; authorizing a public school to
9 partner with a county board of education to fulfill certain requirements to qualify as
10 a Purple Star School; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations;
11 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Purple Star Schools Program.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Education

14 Section 7–126

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 **7–126.**

21 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
22 **INDICATED.**

23 **(2) “MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT WHO IS A**
24 **DEPENDENT OF A CURRENT OR FORMER MEMBER OF:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (I) THE UNITED STATES MILITARY SERVING IN THE ARMY,
2 NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE CORPS, OR COAST GUARD ON ACTIVE DUTY;

3 (II) THE MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD;

4 (III) A RESERVE FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY; OR

5 (IV) A MEMBER OF A MILITARY OR RESERVE FORCE DESCRIBED
6 IN ITEM (I), (II), OR (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH WHO WAS KILLED IN THE LINE OF
7 DUTY.

8 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM.

9 (B) (1) THERE IS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM.

10 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO RECOGNIZE PUBLIC
11 SCHOOLS THAT PROVIDE STRONG SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR
12 MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

13 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

14 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE A PUBLIC SCHOOL AS A
15 PURPLE STAR SCHOOL IF THE SCHOOL APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR THE
16 DESIGNATION UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

17 (D) TO QUALIFY AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL, A PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL:

18 (1) DESIGNATE A STAFF MEMBER AS A MILITARY LIAISON, WHOSE
19 DUTIES SHALL INCLUDE:

20 (I) IDENTIFYING MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS
21 ENROLLED AT THE SCHOOL;

22 (II) SERVING AS THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE
23 SCHOOL AND MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES;

24 (III) DETERMINING APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SERVICES
25 AVAILABLE TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS; AND

26 (IV) ASSISTING IN COORDINATING SCHOOL PROGRAMS
27 RELEVANT TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS;

1 **(2) ESTABLISH ON THE SCHOOL’S WEBSITE AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE**
2 **WEBPAGE THAT INCLUDES RESOURCES FOR MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENTS AND**
3 **THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING INFORMATION REGARDING:**

4 **(I) RELOCATION TO, ENROLLMENT AT, REGISTRATION AT, AND**
5 **TRANSFERRING RECORDS TO THE SCHOOL;**

6 **(II) ACADEMIC PLANNING, COURSE SEQUENCES, AND**
7 **ADVANCED CLASSES AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL; AND**

8 **(III) COUNSELING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE**
9 **FOR MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENTS TRANSITIONING INTO THE SCHOOL;**

10 **(3) MAINTAIN A TRANSITION PROGRAM LED BY STUDENTS, IF**
11 **APPROPRIATE, THAT ASSISTS MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENTS ENROLLED AT THE**
12 **SCHOOL;**

13 **(4) OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF MEMBERS ON**
14 **ISSUES RELATED TO MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENTS; AND**

15 **(5) OFFER AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:**

16 **(I) A RESOLUTION SHOWING SUPPORT FOR**
17 **MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES;**

18 **(II) RECOGNITION OF THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD OR**
19 **MILITARY FAMILY MONTH WITH RELEVANT EVENTS HOSTED BY THE SCHOOL; OR**

20 **(III) A PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL MILITARY INSTALLATION**
21 **THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS TO**
22 **VOLUNTEER AT THE SCHOOL, SPEAK AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY, OR HOST A FIELD**
23 **TRIP.**

24 **(E) A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH THE COUNTY BOARD TO FULFILL**
25 **THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL UNDER**
26 **SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION:**

27 **(1) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WEBPAGE UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(2)**
28 **OF THIS SECTION;**

29 **(2) THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER**
30 **SUBSECTION (D)(4) OF THIS SECTION; OR**

1 **(3) THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INITIATIVE REQUIRED UNDER**
2 **SUBSECTION (D)(5) OF THIS SECTION.**

3 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
4 **SECTION.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2021.