



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

HOUSE BILL 503 – SUPPORT

Primary and Secondary Schools – Dependent Children of Service Members – Enrollment and Documentation Requirements

Ways and Means Committee

February 14, 2020

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service members, and their Families. Our alliance consists of sixteen organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports House Bill 503.

As you know, this bill requires County School Superintendents to allow a dependent child of a military member who is relocating to the state on military orders and is not yet residing in that county during the enrollment period to apply for enrollment in a public school in the same manner and the same time as individuals residing in the county.

Many do not realize that most military children are not allowed to pre-enroll for school; consequently, many course offerings are full by the time the military students can apply. In fact, about 185,000 military children move between schools annually, and as a result, may potentially miss their registration date.

As a result, they may have to shift their planned course of study, which may require them to take courses in summer school, or even force them to graduate later than their peers.

The Maryland Military Coalition believes that we should allow military children, with documentation of a pending military relocation to the state, access to preliminary registration, enrollment, or application to a school district at the time that the process is open to the general student population.

Further, proof of residency requirements should be temporarily waived until the student begins school. At that time, the student should be given a certain number of days to provide proof of residency in the school district.

We believe this simple measure will greatly ease the family burdens associated with the reality of short-notice, life-disrupting military reassignments, and strengthen these students' ability to focus on receiving their high-quality Maryland public school educations.

The Maryland Military Coalition **requests a favorable report for House Bill 503.**

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me at
BTSmith1184@outlook.com or by calling 703.623.3678

1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 260 • Largo, Maryland 20774
Facebook.com/MDMilCoalition MDMilCoalition.org Twitter.com/MDMilCoalition

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Stacy P. May
American Military Society

Lynn A. Nash
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbert B. Forbes
Disabled American Veterans

Sheldon Goldberg
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Pleasala J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Harvey Kaplan
Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mervyn Rice
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw
Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper
The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams
Veterans of Foreign Wars