



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 503 - Primary and Secondary Schools - Dependent Children of Service Members - Enrollment and Documentation Requirements

**SPONSOR:** Delegates Valentino-Smith, *et al.*

**HEARING DATE:** February 14, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

---

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

---

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 503 - Primary and Secondary Schools - Dependent Children of Service Members - Enrollment and Documentation Requirements**, which requires a local superintendent to allow a dependent child of an active duty service member who is relocating to the State on military orders to apply for enrollment in a public school in the same manner and at the same time as individuals who reside in the county.

This bill will help ensure that the family of an active duty member of the U.S Armed Forces and National Guard will be able to seamlessly transition into their new communities. Maryland has already taken steps to help facilitate the transition of the children of our service members into our schools by joining the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in 2009. The Compact addresses a number of important issues such as the transfer of educational records and ensuring that schooling for a child can continue at the same grade level.

This bill builds on the important gains made by the Compact by allowing the children of active duty service members to enroll in a school even if they have not yet relocated. The families of service member may not relocate to their new community all at once given the many logistical burdens that can come with moving a family. This bill will allow a family to enroll a service member's child into a school even if the family is still in the process of moving.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 503** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.