

EDITH J. PATTERSON, ED.D.  
*Legislative District 28*  
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

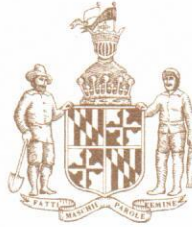
*Subcommittees*

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Early Childhood

*Chair*

Charles County House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB277**

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

**February 3, 2022**

Dear Chair Vanessa Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Alonzo Washington, Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

House Bill 277 – Public Schools – Purple Star Schools Program Establishment provides for the establishment, administration and designation of public schools that meet specified criteria and qualifications. The Maryland Department of Education will serve as the administrator and designee of schools that meet the criteria and qualifications.

The Purple Star School Program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social/emotional challenges military connected students face during their transition to a new school. This program recognizes our military families are frequently having to move every two to four years. A major benefit of this program will help to have continuous high standards and easy transition into communities. Further, students will have help to keep them on track for options after high school as their parents move during their military careers. The program is designed to help students with class placement, counseling and other adaptive programs.

Currently, Purple Star School programs are in place or in development. Some of the states include Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and 95 schools in Virginia. In Maryland, there are nine large military installations and counties that would benefit from this assistive service.

House Bill 277 is enabling legislation for school district and is crossfiled with SB234.

I am seeking a favorable report for this proposed legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith Patterson".

Delegate Edith Patterson