



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – HB0102 – Education – Dependent Children of Service Members – Advance Enrollment Procedures

Dear Chair Wilkins and distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC) and as its Legislative Director, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB0102 – Education – Dependent Children of Service Members – Advance Enrollment Procedures**, sponsored by Delegate Edith J. Patterson. This bill would require a county superintendent of schools to allow a certain dependent child of a service member to be enrolled in a county school upon the receipt of orders for a permanent change of station or reassignment through a remote enrollment process. For a service member or other parent or guardian who has a child with a disability, the bill requires that the registration process include a note indicating whether the child has an individualized education program or a 504 plan in the sending state, and requires that the county board ensure that that child shall receive an appropriate education without undue delay in the county in which the child is enrolled. This bill was introduced as HB0596 in the 2025 Regular Session and passed unanimously by the House of Delegates.

The Maryland Military Coalition supports this bill. Military families can be disadvantaged in school enrollment options for their children due to military-directed moves. Enactment of this legislation can assist by increasing military-connected students' access to this option, allowing them to remain in their current school placement despite a relocation, and including them within existing enrollment prioritization systems. It is one of the state policy priorities for military families by the Department of Defense.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** HB0102 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Ways and Means Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

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150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. For further information, please visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Delegate Patterson for reintroducing and sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Dragics". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars