

EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 102

EDUCATION—DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS— ADVANCE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

January 29, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC) is a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland. The EAC supports House Bill 102 because it addresses a significant barrier faced by children with disabilities whose parents are active service members relocating to a Maryland school district.

House Bill 102 allows active service members who are relocating to a Maryland school district to enroll their dependent children in advance by requiring school districts to establish a remote registration process. The bill also requires that the remote registration process provides an opportunity for parents or guardians to indicate whether a child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan. In addition, HB 102 requires receiving school districts to coordinate with a child's parents and the sending school district to ensure that the child receives an appropriate education without undue delay, including services and accommodations provided in accordance with the child's IEP or Section 504 Plan.

Students with disabilities face significant barriers when transferring between school districts, as they often rely on specialized instruction, accommodations, related services, and assistive technology to meaningfully access their education. Advance enrollment provides receiving school districts with critical time to plan for a student's needs, including securing appropriately trained staff, arranging necessary services, obtaining assistive technology and accessible materials, and identifying an appropriate placement. By allowing for this advance planning, HB 102 helps reduce service gaps, prevent regression, and ensure that children with disabilities are able to access a free appropriate public education (FAPE) from the first day of school.

For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 102.

Contact: Leslie Seid Margolis at lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 443-692-2505.

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Almazan, Attorney

Rene Averitt-Sanzone, Parents Place of Maryland

Linda Barton, Education Consultant

Beth Benevides, Autism Society of Maryland; Co-Chair, Education Advocacy Coalition

Melanie Carlos, Partnership for Extraordinary Minds (xMinds)

Stephanie Carr, SL Carr Education Consultants

Rich Cerulo, Parent and Advocate

Michelle Davis, ABCs for Life Success

Jennifer Engel Fisher, JEF Consultants

Lisa Frank, Special Kids Company

Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course

Leilani Hardy, Maryland Coalition of Families

Morgan Durand Horvath, Abilities Network

Rosemary Kitzinger, Bright Futures

Ande Kolp, The Arc Maryland

Mallory Legg, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland

Monica Martinez, Martinez Advocacy

Beth Nolan, Education Team Allies

Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism

Ronnetta Stanley, Loud Voices Together Educational Advocacy Group

Wayne Steedman, The Steedman Law Group

Guy Stephens, Alliance Against Restraint and Seclusion