

# HOUSE BILL 596

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5lr1797  
CF 5lr1798

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By: **Delegates Patterson, Buckel, Cardin, Ebersole, Feldmark, Harris, D. Jones, McComas, Rose, and Wu**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Dependent Children of Service Members – Advance Enrollment**  
3 **Procedures**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a county superintendent of schools to allow a certain  
5 dependent child of a service member to advance enroll in a school in the county in a  
6 certain manner; requiring a local school system to coordinate with the parents or  
7 guardians of a certain child with a disability and the school district in a certain  
8 sending state to prevent a delay in transferring the child; requiring the Secretary of  
9 Veterans and Military Families, in consultation with certain entities, to publish and  
10 maintain certain information on school enrollment and related services for  
11 dependent children of service members; and generally relating to school enrollment  
12 procedures for dependent children of service members.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 7–115.1  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
19 Article – Education  
20 Section 8–401(a)(1), (2), and (3)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Education**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7-115.1.

2 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (2) **“CHILD WITH A DISABILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**  
4 **8-401 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

5 (3) “Dependent child” means an individual of school age who is a natural  
6 child, a stepchild, an adopted child, or a financially dependent child of a service member.

7 [(3)] (4) “Enrollment” includes course registration and charter school  
8 lotteries.

9 (5) **“FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION” HAS THE MEANING**  
10 **STATED IN § 8-401 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

11 (6) **“SENDING STATE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-1303 OF THIS**  
12 **TITLE.**

13 [(4)] (7) (i) “Service member” means an active duty member of the  
14 United States armed forces.

15 (ii) “Service member” includes a member of the National Guard **OR**  
16 **A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES** on active  
17 duty orders.

18 (b) (1) **[A] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND**  
19 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A** county superintendent shall allow a dependent  
20 child of a service member who is relocating to the State on military orders and is not  
21 domiciled in that county during the enrollment period to apply for **ADVANCE** enrollment in  
22 a public school in the county[, in the same manner and at the same time as individuals  
23 domiciled in the county].

24 (2) **TO ADVANCE ENROLL UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
25 **SUBSECTION, A SERVICE MEMBER SHALL PROVIDE TO A COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**  
26 **MILITARY ORDERS EVIDENCING THAT THE SERVICE MEMBER WILL BE STATIONED IN**  
27 **THE STATE DURING THE CURRENT OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR.**

28 (3) (I) **A COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ESTABLISH A REMOTE**  
29 **REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR ADVANCE ENROLLMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**  
30 **THIS SUBSECTION.**

31 (II) **A REMOTE REGISTRATION PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER**  
32 **THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT:**

1                   **1. CHARGE A FEE; OR**

2                   **2. REQUIRE THE SERVICE MEMBER OR OTHER PARENT**  
3 **OR GUARDIAN OR THE DEPENDENT CHILD TO PHYSICALLY APPEAR AT A LOCATION**  
4 **WITHIN THE COUNTY TO COMPLETE ANY PART OF THE ADVANCE ENROLLMENT**  
5 **PROCESS.**

6                   **(4) ON RECEIPT OF A VALID ADVANCE ENROLLMENT UNDER THIS**  
7 **SECTION, IF THE DEPENDENT CHILD OF THE SERVICE MEMBER IS A CHILD WITH A**  
8 **DISABILITY WHO IS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES IN THE SENDING**  
9 **STATE EQUIVALENT TO A FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION, THE LOCAL**  
10 **SCHOOL SYSTEM ENROLLING THE CHILD PROMPTLY SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE**  
11 **CHILD’S PARENTS OR GUARDIANS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE SENDING**  
12 **STATE TO PREVENT UNDUE DELAY IN TRANSFERRING THE CHILD TO THE STATE.**

13                   **(c) (1) [Within] TO FINALIZE ADVANCE ENROLLMENT UNDER THIS**  
14 **SECTION, WITHIN 10 days of the published arrival date on the service member’s military**  
15 **orders, the service member shall provide the school with:**

- 16                               (i) Satisfactory evidence of the dependent child’s status as a  
17 dependent child of the service member;
- 18                               (ii) A copy of the service member’s military orders to relocate; and
- 19                               (iii) Proof of residence in the county.

20                   **(2) The service member may use the address of any of the following as proof**  
21 **of residence:**

- 22                               (i) A temporary on–base lodging facility;
- 23                               (ii) A purchased or leased home or apartment; or
- 24                               (iii) Any federal government housing unit or off–base military  
25 housing unit.

26                   **(D) (1) A DEPENDENT CHILD OF A SERVICE MEMBER WHO ADVANCE**  
27 **ENROLLS IN A SCHOOL UNDER THIS SECTION MAY REMAIN ENROLLED IN SCHOOL**  
28 **UNTIL COMPLETION OF THE HIGHEST GRADE LEVEL AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL.**

29                   **(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A**  
30 **DEPENDENT CHILD OF A SERVICE MEMBER SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL ACADEMIC**  
31 **COURSES AND PROGRAMS, INCLUDING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND**  
32 **ATHLETIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS, WHEN USING ADVANCE ENROLLMENT.**

1           **(E) THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES, IN**  
2 **CONSULTATION WITH THE MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON DESIGNATED**  
3 **UNDER § 7-1303 OF THIS TITLE AND THE OFFICE OF MILITARY AND FEDERAL**  
4 **AFFAIRS AND THE MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL IN THE**  
5 **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, SHALL PUBLISH AND MAINTAIN INFORMATION ON:**

6           **(1) THE ADVANCE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED UNDER**  
7 **THIS SECTION; AND**

8           **(2) ANY ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO SERVICE**  
9 **MEMBERS REGARDING THE ADVANCE ENROLLMENT OF A DEPENDENT CHILD,**  
10 **INCLUDING A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A FREE**  
11 **APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE.**

12 8-401.

13           (a) (1) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

14           (2) “Child with a disability” means a child who has been determined  
15 through appropriate assessment as having autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment,  
16 including deafness, emotional disability, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities,  
17 orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or  
18 language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, including blindness, and  
19 who because of that impairment needs special education and related services.

20           (3) “Free appropriate public education” means special education and  
21 related services that:

22                           (i) Are provided at public expense, under public supervision and  
23 direction, at no cost to the parents;

24                           (ii) Meet the standards of the State Board regulations and the  
25 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

26                           (iii) Includes preschool, elementary, and secondary education; and

27                           (iv) Are provided in conformance with the requirements of the child’s  
28 individualized education program.

29           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
30 1, 2025.