

# SENATE BILL 601

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CF HB 596

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By: **Senator Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 21, 2025

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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)

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 7–115.1.

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

6 (2) **“CHILD WITH A DISABILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**  
7 **8–401 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

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

10 [(3)] (4) **“Enrollment”** includes course registration and charter school  
11 lotteries.

12 (5) **“FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION” HAS THE MEANING**  
13 **STATED IN § 8–401 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

14 (6) **“SENDING STATE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7–1303 OF THIS**  
15 **TITLE.**

16 [(4)] (7) (i) **“Service member”** means an active duty member of the  
17 ~~United States armed forces~~ **UNIFORMED SERVICES, AS DEFINED IN 37 U.S.C. § 101.**

18 (ii) **“Service member”** includes a member of ~~the National Guard or~~  
19 **A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, AS**  
20 **DEFINED IN 37 U.S.C. § 101,** on active duty orders.

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

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

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

4           **(II) A REMOTE REGISTRATION PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER**  
5 **THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT:**

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

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

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

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

21                   (i)    Satisfactory evidence of the dependent child's status as a  
22 dependent child of the service member;

23                   (ii)   A copy of the service member's military orders to relocate; and

24                   (iii)  Proof of residence in the county.

25           (2)    The service member may use the address of any of the following as proof  
26 of residence:

27                   (i)    A temporary on-base lodging facility;

28                   (ii)   A purchased or leased home or apartment; or

29                   (iii)  Any federal government housing unit or off-base military  
30 housing unit.

31           **(D) (1) (I) A DEPENDENT CHILD OF A SERVICE MEMBER WHO ADVANCE**  
32 **ENROLLS IN A SCHOOL UNDER THIS SECTION MAY REMAIN ENROLLED IN SCHOOL**

1 UNTIL COMPLETION OF THE HIGHEST GRADE LEVEL AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL  
2 SUBJECT TO A CASE-BY-CASE REVIEW OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.

3 (II) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL PRIORITIZE A DEPENDENT  
4 CHILD'S CONTINUITY IN EDUCATION WHEN MAKING DETERMINATIONS UNDER  
5 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

6 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A  
7 DEPENDENT CHILD OF A SERVICE MEMBER SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL ACADEMIC  
8 COURSES AND PROGRAMS FOR WHICH THE DEPENDENT CHILD QUALIFIES,  
9 INCLUDING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS,  
10 WHEN USING ADVANCE ENROLLMENT.

11 (E) THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES, IN  
12 CONSULTATION WITH THE MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON DESIGNATED  
13 UNDER § 7-1303 OF THIS TITLE AND THE OFFICE OF MILITARY AND FEDERAL  
14 AFFAIRS AND THE MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL IN THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, SHALL PUBLISH AND MAINTAIN INFORMATION ON:

16 (1) THE ADVANCE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED UNDER  
17 THIS SECTION; AND

18 (2) ANY ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO SERVICE  
19 MEMBERS REGARDING THE ADVANCE ENROLLMENT OF A DEPENDENT CHILD,  
20 INCLUDING A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A FREE  
21 APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

22 8-401.

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

24 (2) "Child with a disability" means a child who has been determined  
25 through appropriate assessment as having autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment,  
26 including deafness, emotional disability, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities,  
27 orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or  
28 language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, including blindness, and  
29 who because of that impairment needs special education and related services.

30 (3) "Free appropriate public education" means special education and  
31 related services that:

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

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

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

4 (iv) Are provided in conformance with the requirements of the child's  
5 individualized education program.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
7 1, 2025.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.