

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 137 (Senator Simonaire)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Education - High School Diploma - Veterans of Armed Conflicts

This bill expands the honorably discharged veterans eligible to receive high school diplomas by including those who left a public or private school to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces during *any* armed conflict authorized by the President of the United States or Congress.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill authorizes local boards of education and private schools to issue diplomas to eligible veterans.

Local Effect: Local boards of education can issue diplomas to eligible veterans using existing resources. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Honorably discharged veterans may obtain a high school diploma if the individual withdrew from a regular full-time public or private school to enlist in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict. The veteran must apply to the local board in the county where the individual resides or where the school from which the individual withdrew was located. Each local board of education must adopt rules and regulations to establish procedures for awarding diplomas for such veterans.

Additional Comments: Private high schools can issue diplomas to eligible veterans using existing resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 587 (Delegate Patterson, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 2025
km/mcr

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510