

Chapter 670

(House Bill 623)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Purple Star Schools Program and Purple Star Colleges Program

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “military–connected student” under the Purple Star Schools Program to conform with certain terms defined under State law; establishing the Purple Star Colleges Program to recognize certain colleges that provide strong services and support for military–connected students; and generally relating to the establishment of the Purple Star Colleges Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 7–129(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 10–101(a), (c), and (h) through (j)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Education
 Section 11–2001 through 11–2003 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 20. Purple Star Colleges Program”
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7–129.

- (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (2) “Military–connected student” means a student who is a dependent of:
- (i) [An active duty uniformed services member;

(ii) A member of a reserve component] **A SERVICE MEMBER**; or

[(iii)] **(II)** A **SERVICE** member [described in item (i) or (ii) of this paragraph] who was killed in the line of duty.

(3) “Program” means the Purple Star Schools Program.

10–101.

(a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

(c) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(h) (1) “Institution of higher education” means an institution of postsecondary education that generally limits enrollment to graduates of secondary schools, and awards degrees at either the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level.

(2) “Institution of higher education” includes public, private nonprofit, and for–profit institutions of higher education.

(i) (1) “Institution of postsecondary education” means a school or other institution that offers an educational program in the State for individuals who are at least 16 years old and who have graduated from or left elementary or secondary school.

(2) “Institution of postsecondary education” does not include:

(i) Any adult education, evening high school, or high school equivalence program conducted by a public school system of the State; or

(ii) Any apprenticeship or on–the–job training program subject to approval by the Apprenticeship and Training Council.

(j) “Private career school” means a privately owned and privately operated institution of postsecondary education other than an institution of higher education that furnishes or offers to furnish programs, whether or not requiring a payment of tuition or fee, for the purpose of training, retraining, or upgrading individuals for gainful employment as skilled or semiskilled workers or technicians in recognized occupations or in new and emerging occupations.

SUBTITLE 20. PURPLE STAR COLLEGES PROGRAM.

11–2001.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “COLLEGE” MEANS:

(1) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; OR

(2) A PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL.

(C) “MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT WHO IS:

(1) A SERVICE MEMBER;

(2) A VETERAN; OR

(3) A SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(D) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE PURPLE STAR COLLEGES PROGRAM.

11–2002.

(A) THERE IS A PURPLE STAR COLLEGES PROGRAM.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO RECOGNIZE COLLEGES THAT PROVIDE STRONG SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENTS.

(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

11–2003.

(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL DESIGNATE A COLLEGE AS A PURPLE STAR COLLEGE IF THE COLLEGE APPLIES AND MEETS THE CRITERIA ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR A PURPLE STAR COLLEGE.

(B) AT A MINIMUM, THE COMMISSION’S CRITERIA FOR A PURPLE STAR COLLEGE SHALL REQUIRE A COLLEGE TO:

(1) DESIGNATE A STAFF MEMBER AS A UNIFORMED SERVICES LIAISON, WHOSE DUTIES SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) IDENTIFYING MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENTS WHO ARE NEWLY ENROLLED AT THE COLLEGE;

(II) SERVING AS THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE COLLEGE AND NEWLY ENROLLED MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS;

(III) DETERMINING APPROPRIATE COLLEGE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO NEWLY ENROLLED MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS;

(IV) ASSISTING IN COORDINATING COLLEGE PROGRAMS FOR NEWLY ENROLLED MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS; AND

(V) GENERALLY ASSISTING IN A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT'S TRANSITION TO A NEW COLLEGE;

(2) ESTABLISH ON THE COLLEGE'S WEBSITE AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE WEBPAGE THAT INCLUDES LINKS TO RESOURCES FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS, INCLUDING LINKS TO INFORMATION REGARDING:

(I) RELOCATION TO, ENROLLMENT AT, REGISTRATION AT, AND TRANSFERRING RECORDS TO THE COLLEGE;

(II) ACADEMIC PLANNING, COURSE SEQUENCES, AND ADVANCED COURSES AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE; AND

(III) COUNSELING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS TRANSITIONING INTO THE COLLEGE;

(3) MAINTAIN A TRANSITION PROGRAM LED BY STUDENTS, IF APPROPRIATE, THAT ASSISTS MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS ENROLLED AT THE COLLEGE; AND

(4) OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF MEMBERS ON ISSUES RELATED TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO NEW COLLEGES.

(C) A COLLEGE MAY PARTNER WITH ITS GOVERNING BODY TO FULFILL THE COMMISSION'S CRITERIA TO QUALIFY AS A PURPLE STAR COLLEGE.

(D) THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 26, 2026.