



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 391 – SUPPORT

Primary and Secondary Schools – Dependent Children of Service Members – Enrollment and Documentation Requirements

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 18, 2020

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service Members, and their families. The Coalition consists of 17 uniformed services and veterans' organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 391.

As you know, this bill requires County School Superintendents to allow a dependent child of a military member who is relocating to the state on military orders, and is not yet residing in that county during the enrollment period, to apply for enrollment in a public school in the same manner and the same time as individuals residing in the county.

Many do not realize that most military dependent children are not allowed to pre-enroll for school. Consequently, many course offerings are full by the time the military students can apply. In fact, about 185,000 military dependent children move between schools annually, and as a result, may potentially miss their registration date.

As a result, they may have to shift their planned course of study, which may require them to take courses in summer school, or even force them to graduate later than their peers.

The Maryland Military Coalition believes that we should allow military dependent children, with documentation of a pending military relocation to the state, access to preliminary registration, enrollment, or application to a school district at the time that the process is open to the general student population.

Further, proof of residency requirements should be temporarily waived until the student begins school. At that time, the student should be given a certain number of days to provide proof of residency in the school district.

We believe this simple measure will greatly ease the family burdens associated with the reality of short-notice, life-disrupting military reassignments, and strengthen these students' ability to focus on receiving their high-quality Maryland public school educations.

The Maryland Military Coalition requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 391.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature page follows)

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Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan

Air Force Sergeants Association

John P. May

American Military Society

Lynn A. Yash

**Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service**

Wilbert B. Forbes

Disabled American Veterans

Seldon H. Fredberg

Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Phasala J. Collins

Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood

**Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association**

Harvey Kaplan

Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Marlene Rice

National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McBraw

Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper

The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams

Veterans of Foreign Wars