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Appropriations Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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HB503 Primary and Secondary Schools – Dependent Children of Service Members – Enrollment and Documentation Requirements

- HB503 addresses primary and secondary school enrollment and course registration requirements for dependent children of military service members.
- Military children, prior to their arriving in-state as the result of their serving parents' permanent change of station (PCS), may be at risk of not being allowed to pre-enroll for school. For example, competitive enrollment and magnet course offerings may fill by the time students are actively residing in the school district.
- This bill would close a loophole and require local school districts to allow a dependent child of a service member, relocating to the state on military orders, to enroll in a district school during the enrollment period in the same manner as individuals already domiciled in the county.
- HB 503 is needed because this issue is not addressed by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children which Maryland joined in 2009. The Compact requires school districts to place the student once they arrive, but does not require them to accommodate the student if the class is full.
- We need to bolster the Military Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children or risk their:
 - missing important school deadlines,
 - being thrown off their planned course of study,
 - being required to take courses in summer school,
 - or even graduating later than their peers.
- Currently 15 states have already incorporated similar language and 9 states have introduced bills with policy language to address this issue.

- Maryland is a state that has long been a home—permanent and temporary—to the most worthy men and women of the United States military who serve and sacrifice for our country.
- It is, therefore, fitting that we favorably report this bill to honor all serving military families and their dependent school children that will be reside in Maryland.