

BILL:	House Bill 923	DATE:	February 21, 2024
SUBJECT:	State Department of Education - Study on Transfer and Awarding of Advanced Placement Course Credits and Military Students	COMMITTEE:	Ways and Means
POSITION:	Information Only		
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## EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding House Bill (HB) 923 - *State Department of Education - Study on Transfer and Awarding of Advanced Placement Course Credits and Military Students*, which requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to consult with local education agencies (LEAs) to study the transfer and awarding of advanced placement (AP) credits earned by a high school student from a military family who moved to Maryland from another state on military orders. MSDE will also be required to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or by July 1, 2025.

MSDE supports the goal of ensuring fair and equitable transfer of credits for high school students from military families. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) ensures the uniform treatment of military children transferring between states. It was developed by the Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts, the U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, the Department of Education of each State, school administrators, and military families. All States and the District of Columbia are members of the Interstate Compact. The Interstate Compact found in Education Article § 7-1303 of the Maryland Annotated Code was adopted in 2009. (Chapters 501 and 502, 2009). As a member of the Compact, Maryland and all states must abide by the provisions of the Compact.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is the national organization leading the work on educational opportunities for military children. The Interstate Compact operates under rules that were adopted by the Compact and each state. Each state is represented on the MIC3. The Maryland Commissioner is also chair of the MIC3 Rules Committee and works to ensure that the Rules of the Compact are followed.

One provision of the Compact is Course Placement. "When a student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving school shall honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school... Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement..." Article V, Section A.1. Based on this provision, the Military Interstate Compact Commission advises states that "a receiving state school is not allowed to withdraw credit and corresponding grades previously awarded for courses completed in the sending state public school."

A study on the transfer of credits for military children is not necessary as the Compact requires credits to be accepted by receiving schools. The Maryland Commissioner at MSDE works with LEAs to resolve any concerns that arise. Under the Interstate Compact for Military Children, when a military student transfers into a Maryland high school, the receiving high school must accept credits awarded in the student's previous school. This would include

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AP credit(s). The fact that AP standards are universal, and courses/curriculum must be audited and approved by the College Board prior to a course being designated and offered as an AP course, makes the transfer of credits nationally very straightforward.

In Maryland, all LEAs have a point of contact for military families. In addition, each military installation in Maryland has a School Liaison Officer (SLO), who assists military families in addressing any questions about school transfer. MSDE supports LEAs and SLOs to ensure that the LEAs and SLOs are aware of and understand the Compact provisions.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 923**. For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne at 410-767-0504 or <u>Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov</u>.