



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

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GOVERNOR

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ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY

**House Bill 118 -Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
SUPPORT**

January 24, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for the military-connected communities. DVMF fulfills its mission through five core programs: the Service and Benefits Program, which helps veterans access federal, state, and local earned benefits; Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, offering assisted living and skilled nursing care; the Cemetery and Memorial Program, providing dignified resting places and maintaining memorials honoring Maryland's veterans; the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program, fostering connection and awareness; and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, offering financial assistance to veterans and their families in need. These programs reflect Maryland's commitment to honoring and empowering its military-connected community.

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families supports House Bill 118 - Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.

DVMF believes this legislation streamlines the teacher licensure process for educators moving between states, including military spouses and veterans, and supports their professional continuity.

Maryland is home to a significant military-connected population, including active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. The transient nature of military life often creates barriers to employment for military spouses and veterans in licensed professions such as teaching. HB 118 addresses these challenges by enabling reciprocity in teacher licensure across member states, ensuring these individuals can continue their professional careers without unnecessary delays or redundancies.

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Specifically, HB 118 benefits the military-connected community in the following ways:

1. **Supports Military Spouse Employment:** Military spouses face unemployment rates significantly higher than the national average due to frequent relocations. By recognizing teaching licenses from other states, this compact provides a clear pathway for military spouses to secure teaching positions in Maryland quickly.
2. **Enhances Retention of Military Families in Maryland:** The ability to maintain stable, meaningful employment plays a crucial role in where military families choose to live after service. HB 118 makes Maryland a more attractive option for military families transitioning out of active service by reducing employment barriers.
3. **Addresses Teacher Shortages:** Maryland schools continue to face challenges in hiring qualified teachers. HB 118 expands the pool of qualified educators by facilitating the licensure process for out-of-state teachers, including veterans transitioning to civilian careers in education.
4. **Promotes Educational Continuity:** The compact ensures that children in military families experience fewer disruptions in their education. By expediting the licensure process, highly qualified educators, such as military spouses and veterans, can more quickly integrate into Maryland schools, fostering stability for students.

The passage of HB 118 demonstrates Maryland's commitment to supporting the military-connected community while addressing critical workforce needs in education. This legislation provides a win-win solution, enhancing employment opportunities for military families while strengthening Maryland's schools with qualified educators.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal and I ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary