



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Kevin Anderson | Secretary of Commerce

DATE: January 29, 2025
BILL NO: House Bill 118
BILL TITLE: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
COMMITTEE: House Ways and Means
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports House Bill 118 – Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.

Bill Summary:

House Bill 118 establishes a pathway to enhance teacher mobility across states by creating a multi-state teacher licensure compact. This bill provides an update to existing code prescribed by the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact regarding teacher preparation to allow licensure to be granted via this framework. Its purpose is to streamline licensure mobility for teachers, facilitate the relocation of military spouses and increase standards in the teaching profession across states.

Background:

In 2018 Maryland passed provisions for flexibility for Military Spouse Teachers to gain teaching licensure in the State of Maryland; however, the 2023 federal legislative action requires a different approach by states to this issue.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) provides service members and their dependents with certain financial and due process protections during military service. On January 5, 2023, President Biden signed the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 which adds a new section to the SCRA called “Portability of Professional Licenses of Service Members and their Spouses.” House Bill 118 allows Maryland to move into compliance with this federal requirement for license reciprocity by moving into an interstate compact framework.

Rationale:

Passage of this bill will allow Maryland to comply with new federal requirements and support the unique needs of military families. This will represent a huge step towards national best practices in teacher licensure, particularly for military spouses, and will facilitate growth in the educational workforce by encouraging greater teacher mobility. The economic impact of Maryland’s military installations in FY 2021 was \$61.4B in payroll and expenditures. With 72% of military families living off-base in our communities, this bill will allow not only the ease of military families gaining employment but also contributing to the overall quality of life for all Marylanders by increasing the availability of licensed teachers in our communities.

In addition to license portability, DoD also strongly encourages states to adopt interstate compacts for occupational licensure. The Council of State Governments is partnering with DoD and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification to support the mobility of licensed teachers through the development of a new interstate compact. To date, legislation has passed in 13 states including Delaware and Pennsylvania. Passage of HB 118 will keep Maryland competitive as a military family-friendly state and generally for license portability.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 118.