

# **EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## **SENATE BILL 263**

### **EDUCATION—DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS— ADVANCE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES**

February 27, 2026

#### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC) is a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland. The EAC supports Senate Bill 263 because it addresses a significant barrier faced by children with disabilities whose parents are active service members relocating to a Maryland school district.

Senate Bill 263 allows active service members who are relocating to a Maryland school district to enroll their dependent children in advance by requiring school districts to establish a remote registration process. The bill also requires that the remote registration process provides an opportunity for parents or guardians to indicate whether a child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan. In addition, SB 263 requires receiving school districts to coordinate with a child's parents and the sending school district to ensure that the child receives an appropriate education without undue delay, including services and accommodations provided in accordance with the child's IEP or Section 504 Plan.

Students with disabilities face significant barriers when transferring between school districts, as they often rely on specialized instruction, accommodations, related services, and assistive technology to meaningfully access their education. Advance enrollment provides receiving school districts with critical time to plan for a student's needs, including securing appropriately trained staff, arranging necessary services, obtaining assistive technology and accessible materials, and identifying an appropriate placement. By allowing for this advance planning, SB 263 helps reduce service gaps, prevent regression, and ensure that children with disabilities are able to access a free appropriate public education (FAPE) from the first day of school.

For these reasons, the EAC supports Senate Bill 263.

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Respectfully submitted,

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