



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

March 23, 2026

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

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Wilkins and distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC), I write to request a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact** sponsored by Senator Malcolm Augustine. This bill would enter Maryland into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact that was developed by the Council of State Governments (CSG) in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) to support the mobility of licensed school psychologists. **SB0238 was passed unanimously by the Senate.**

School psychologists provide critical services for children across the country to better support learning, mental health, and behavior in schools. There is, however, a shortage of school psychologists in Maryland. According to data from NASP, as of February 2026, Maryland's current ratio is 1,037:1² compared to the recommended ratio of 500-750:1. This shortage not only harms students, but also further stretches thin the ability for teachers and administrators to focus directly on their roles. The Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP) provides an additional tool in the toolbox for Maryland in addressing shortages in our state. In addition, the ICSP maintains Maryland's sovereignty and does not alter the State's ability to regulate the school psychologist profession or licensure.

By passing SB0238, Maryland can join seven other states that have enacted this compact. This compact will benefit practitioners who are spouses of members of the armed forces by:

- Facilitating multistate practice
- Enhancing license portability when official orders require a change of duty stations
- **Support relocating military spouses, a key goal of the MMC**
- Reduce the burden of maintaining multiple licenses

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

² <https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/state-shortages-data-dashboard>

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0238** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Ways and Means Committee. Enacting this compact is in line with the DoD's commitment to supporting military spouses as an essential component of supporting military families. The MMC believes, as does the DoD, that interstate licensure compacts are the best solution for occupational license portability for military spouses.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 21 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. For further information, visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Augustine for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'L'.

David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars