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BILL: Senate Bill 263
TITLE: Education - Dependent Children of Active Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures
HEARING DATE: March 25, 2026
POSITION: FAVORABLE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, **supports Senate Bill 263 Education - Dependent Children of Active Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures**, and appreciates the General Assembly's commitment to promoting educational stability and success for military-connected students. MABE supports policies that promote educational stability, equity, and student success while preserving local governance and operational flexibility. MABE supports military families and military-connected students and recognizes the unique challenges these students face as a result of frequent relocations and transitions between school systems.

Senate Bill 263 intends to reduce educational disruption for military-connected students by requiring local school systems to provide an advance remote enrollment option for the dependents of active service members, prior to their relocation to Maryland. Senate Bill 263 also requires that the advance remote registration process include an opportunity to note whether the student has an individualized education program (IEP) or a 504 plan, and states that the county board must ensure that if the student has an IEP or a 504 plan, the student receives an appropriate education without delay. MABE supports the intent of this legislation and appreciates the sponsor's focus on ensuring that military-connected students experience a smooth transition into Maryland public schools.

We recognize the significant presence of military families in our communities — Maryland is home to approximately 100,000 active-duty service members. Local school systems frequently welcome children of military families. These students face unique challenges stemming from frequent relocations, including disruptions in coursework, credit transfers, and social adjustment when enrolling in a new school. MABE is committed to reducing unnecessary burdens on these families, who already shoulder significant sacrifice in service to our nation. We support policies that streamline enrollment processes, ensure timely credit recognition, and provide consistent transitions across school systems. SB 263 is a meaningful step toward facilitating smoother school

transitions for military-connected students, and it reflects Maryland’s dedication to serving all students — including those whose families serve our country.

MABE supports Senate Bill 263 and looks forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to ensure that Maryland’s public schools remain welcoming, responsive, and supportive of military families.