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H.B. 244
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Primary and Secondary Education

Primary Sponsors: Reps. White and Lampton

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SUMMARY

- Requires school districts, community schools, and STEM schools to permit children of military families to participate in technology-based educational opportunities to minimize disruptions when those students' families transition from one military installation to another.
- Requires school districts to permit school-aged children of active duty uniformed services members who relocate to Ohio who are not district residents to apply for enrollment in a district school in the same manner and at the same time as district resident students.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Technology-based educational opportunities for military family children

The bill requires "local education agencies" (city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school districts, community schools, and STEM schools) to permit children of military families to participate in technology-based educational opportunities in order to minimize disruptions when those students' families receive permanent change of station orders to, within, or out of Ohio to transition from one military installation to another. The bill specifically requires local education agencies in the state to permit students to participate in technology-based opportunities when those students' families receive permanent change of station orders out of the state until the students are enrolled in the schools of a new local education agency.¹

¹ R.C. 3301.601.

School district enrollment of military family children

To implement the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (see “**Background**” below) and the bill’s technology-based educational opportunities provision, the bill requires school districts to permit school-aged children of active duty uniformed services members who relocate to Ohio and are not yet district residents to apply for enrollment in a district school in the same manner and at the same time as district resident students. Enrollment applications must be accepted by electronic means, including those for specific schools or programs within the district.

The bill then requires these students’ parents or guardians to provide proof of residence in the district within ten days after establishing residence in the school district. Under the bill, a temporary on-base billeting facility, a purchased or leased home or apartment, or a federal government or public-private venture off-base military housing are all acceptable forms of residency.²

Background

Ohio’s membership in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children was established by H.B. 1 of the 128th General Assembly, effective October 16, 2009.³ The Compact is intended to address some of the educational challenges transitioning children of military families face, such as eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation, by providing a consistent policy in every school district of each state that has joined the Compact. Currently all 50 states and the District of Columbia participate in the Compact. It is administered by the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Public Health Service, and members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year are eligible for assistance under the Compact. Students of uniformed service members who perish on active duty also are eligible for one year following the member’s death.

More information about the Compact can be found at <https://mic3.net/> and on pp. 292-297 of the Final Analysis of H.B. 1 of the 128th General Assembly.⁴

² R.C. 3301.65.

³ R.C. 3301.60, not in the bill.

⁴ http://archives.legislature.state.oh.us/analysis.cfm?ID=128_HB_1&ACT=Veto%20Message&hf=analysis128/09-hb1-128.htm.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-31-21
Reported, H. Primary and Secondary Education	05-12-21
