

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/CS/HB 429 Purple Star Campuses

SPONSOR(S): Education & Employment Committee, Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee, Learned, Maney and others

TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/CS/SB 938

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 117 Y's 0 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/CS/CS/HB 429 passed the House on April 23, 2021, and subsequently passed the Senate on April 26, 2021.

Students from military families experience academic and social-emotional challenges as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station. In order to assist students from military families with this transition, the bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a Purple Star Campus Program (program) that identifies schools that support military-connected children, enrolled in public schools, charter schools, and schools participating in the Florida educational choice scholarship program.

Under the program, schools will be recognized as Purple Star Campuses if they meet the following requirements:

- Designate a staff member as a military liaison;
- Maintain a webpage on the school's website which includes resources for military students and families;
- Maintain a student-led transition program to assist military students in transitioning into the school;
- Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students; and
- Reserve at least five percent of open enrollment seats for military-connected students.

The DOE is authorized to establish additional criteria to identify schools that demonstrate a commitment to or provide critical transition supports for military-connected families.

The bill authorizes a school to partner with a school district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance necessary to implement the criteria of the program.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the program.

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on local governments and no fiscal impact on the state.

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 4, 2021, ch. 2021-65, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2021.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

Military Personnel and Families

There are over 3.5 million United States military personnel located worldwide.¹ A total of 1.2 million active duty² service members are assigned throughout all 50 states and the District of Columbia. More than half of the military members stationed stateside reside in California, Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.³

Over 800,000 select reserve component members⁴ are assigned throughout the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Almost half of the reserve members are assigned to California, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Georgia, Virginia, Illinois, and North Carolina.⁵

Approximately 38 percent of all active duty service members have children.⁶

Florida is home to 20 military installations,⁷ 65,267 military personnel,⁸ and over 52,000 children (newborn through age 19) of military personnel.⁹

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Florida joined the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Interstate Compact) in 2008.¹⁰ Currently, all 50 states are members of the Interstate Compact.¹¹ The purpose of the Interstate Compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on students from military families due to frequent moves and deployment of their parents.¹² To accomplish this purpose, current law provides for:

- Prioritizing students from military families in the controlled open enrollment process;¹³
- Providing an exception to restrictions on participation in extracurricular activities for students from military families;¹⁴
- Establishing memoranda of understanding between school districts and military installations;¹⁵

¹ Department of Defense, *2019 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community*, p. iii (2019), available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf>.

² The term “active duty” means full time duty in the active military service and includes full-time training, annual training duty, and attendance. 10 U.S.C. s. 101.

³ Department of Defense, *2019 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community*, p. iv (2019), available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf>.

⁴ The reserve components of the armed forces include the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve. 10 U.S.C., s. 10101.

⁵ Department of Defense, *2019 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community*, p. v (2019), available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf>.

⁶ *Id.* at 122.

⁷ Enterprise Florida, *Florida’s Military Profile*, available at https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Military_Install_Map.pdf.

⁸ Florida Defense Support Task Force, *Florida Defense Factbook Quick Comparison (2020)*, available at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FactBook-Quick-Comparison-Flier-2020.pdf>.

⁹ Department of Defense, *2019 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community*, p. 176-177 (2019), available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf>.

¹⁰ Ch. 2008-225, Laws of Fla.

¹¹ Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, *Interactive Map*, <https://mic3.net/interactive-map/> (last visited April 26, 2021).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Section 1002.31, F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1006.15(3)(h) and (9)(b), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 1003.05(2), F.S.

- Providing for students from military families who are otherwise eligible for special academic programs at any school in the district school to receive first preference for admission;¹⁶ and
- Pending a transfer to a military installation within the school district, considering students from military families as residents of that county for purposes of enrollment.¹⁷

Other Educational Benefits

The federally connected student supplement provides supplemental funding, through the Florida Education Finance Program, for school districts to support the education of students connected with federally owned military installations, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) property, and Native American sovereignty lands. Districts must be eligible for federal Impact Aid Program funds under s. 7003 of Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to qualify.¹⁸ The student allocation is calculated based on the number of students reported for federal Impact Aid Program funding, including students with disabilities, who meet one of the following criteria:

- Students with parents who either are on active duty in military service of the United States or are an accredited foreign government official and military officer.
- Students residing on eligible federally owned Native American sovereignty land.
- Students residing with a civilian parent who lives or works on eligible federal property connected with a military installation or NASA.¹⁹

Florida provides other educational benefits to military children, including:

- Accepting military permanent change of station orders that relocate a military family to any military installation within the state as proof of Florida residency.²⁰
- Accepting exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from a sending state.²¹
- Providing preferential treatment to dependent children of active duty military personnel who moved as a result of military orders in a school's controlled open enrollment process.²²

Purple Star School Program

The Purple Star School Program (program) is designed to support students from military families as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station.²³ As of September 2020, nine states have implemented Purple Star School programs: Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, Ohio, Arkansas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Indiana.²⁴

The program requires that a school:²⁵

- Designate a staff point of contact for military families;
- Establish and maintain a dedicated page on the school's website featuring information and resources for military families;
- Create a student-led transition program; and

¹⁶ Section 1003.05(3), F.S. For the purposes of this section, special academic programs include magnet schools, advanced studies programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, Advanced International Certificate Educations, and International Baccalaureate.

¹⁷ Section 1003.05(4), F.S.

¹⁸ Section 1011.62(13), F.S. Generally, a school district will be eligible for Impact Aid Program funds if it educates at least 400 federally connected children or if federally connected children comprise at least 3 percent of the school district's student body, with both figures being calculated on average daily attendance. 20 U.S.C. s. 7703(b).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Section 1003.05, F.S.

²¹ Section 1000.36, F.S.

²² Section 1002.31(2)(c)1., F.S.

²³ Military Child Education Coalition, *Purple Star Schools*, <https://www.militarychild.org/purplestarschools> (last visited April 26, 2021).

²⁴ Military Child Education Coalition, *Issue Paper Purple Star School Designation Program*, available at https://www.militarychild.org/upload/images/Purple%20Star%20Schools/MCEC_issue_paper_PSS_9_10.2020.pdf.

²⁵ *Id.*

- Provide professional development for additional staff on special considerations for military families.

Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Purple Star Campus Program to support military-connected children. Specifically, the bill:

- Defines a military student as a student enrolled in a school district, charter school, or a school or institution participating in a Florida educational choice scholarship program, who is a dependent of either an active-duty member or a former member of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, a reserve component of any of these branches of the military, or the Florida National Guard.
- Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish the program and requires a participating school, at a minimum, to:
 - designate a staff member as a military liaison;
 - maintain a webpage on the school's website which includes resources for military students and families;
 - maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning into the school;
 - offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students; and
 - reserve at least five percent of open enrollment seats for military-connected students.

The DOE is authorized to establish additional criteria to identify schools that demonstrate a commitment to or provide critical transition supports for military-connected families, such as:

- hosting an annual military recognition event;
- partnering with a school liaison from a military installation;
- supporting projects connecting the school with the military community; or
- providing outreach for military parents and their children.

The bill authorizes a school to partner with a school district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance as necessary to implement the criteria of the program.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the program.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on school districts.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

School districts establishing Purple Star Campuses may need to expend funds to meet the requirements set forth by the DOE. As the final requirements for the program will be established in rule, the fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate.²⁶

²⁶ Department of Education, *2021 Agency Analysis for SB 938*, companion to HB 429. On file with Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.