

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1705

S.P. 557

In Senate, May 13, 2021

An Act To Support Maine Students Who Are Dependents of Current or Former Members of the Military

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on May 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representatives: O'CONNELL of Brewer, ROEDER of Bangor.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2404, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Virtual public charter school eligibility.** In addition to the provision in
4 subsection 1, a dependent of a member of the United States Armed Forces who has received
5 official military orders to relocate to this State is eligible to apply to a virtual public charter
6 school.

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5205, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

8 **12. Military-connected student.** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in
9 chapter 901, a military-connected student whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer
10 to the State while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order is considered
11 a resident of the school administrative unit in which the address identified by the parent
12 pursuant to paragraph C is located. For the purposes of this subsection, "military-connected
13 student" has the same meaning as in section 6991.

14 **A.** A school administrative unit shall accept applications by electronic means for
15 enrollment under this subsection, including enrollment in a specific school or program
16 within the school administrative unit, and course registration.

17 **B.** The parent of a military-connected student shall provide proof of residence in the
18 school administrative unit within 10 days after the arrival date provided on the parent's
19 official military order.

20 **C.** A parent may identify any of the following as an address in the State for the
21 purposes of this subsection:

22 **(1)** A temporary lodging facility on a military installation as defined in section
23 20102;

24 **(2)** A purchased or leased house or apartment; or

25 **(3)** Federal Government or public-private venture military housing.

26 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA c. 231** is enacted to read:

27 **CHAPTER 231**

28 **PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS**

29 **§6991. Definitions**

30 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
31 following meanings.

32 **1. Military-connected student.** "Military-connected student" means a student who is
33 a dependent of:

34 **A.** A current or former member of:

35 **(1)** The United States military serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
36 Corps, Space Force or Coast Guard on active duty;

37 **(2)** The Maine National Guard; or

1 (3) A reserve force of the United States military; or

2 B. A member of a military or reserve force described in paragraph A who was killed
3 in the line of duty.

4 **§6992. Purple Star School**

5 The department shall designate a school administrative unit as a Purple Star School if
6 the school administrative unit applies and qualifies for the designation under this chapter.

7 **§6993. Program requirements**

8 To qualify as a Purple Star School, a school administrative unit must:

9 **1. Military liaison.** Designate a staff member as a military liaison, whose duties
10 include:

11 A. Identifying military-connected students enrolled at the school administrative unit;

12 B. Serving as the point of contact between the school administrative unit and military-
13 connected students and their families;

14 C. Determining appropriate school administrative unit services available to military-
15 connected students; and

16 D. Assisting in coordinating school administrative unit programs relevant to military-
17 connected students;

18 **2. Website.** Maintain on the school administrative unit's publicly accessible website
19 an easily accessible web page that includes resources for military-connected students and
20 their families, including information regarding:

21 A. Relocation to, enrollment in and transferring records to the school administrative
22 unit;

23 B. Academic planning, course sequences and advanced classes available at the school
24 administrative unit; and

25 C. Counseling and other support services available for military-connected students
26 enrolled in the school administrative unit;

27 **3. Transition program.** Maintain a transition program led by students, when
28 appropriate, that assists military-connected students in transitioning into the school
29 administrative unit;

30 **4. Professional development.** Offer professional development for staff members on
31 issues related to military-connected students; and

32 **5. Initiatives.** Initiate one of the following:

33 A. A resolution showing support for military-connected students and their families;

34 B. Recognition of the month of the military child or military family month with
35 relevant events hosted by the school administrative unit; or

36 C. A partnership with a local military installation, as defined in section 20102, that
37 provides opportunities for active duty military members to volunteer at the school
38 administrative unit, speak at an assembly or host a field trip.

39 **§6994. Partnerships between school administrative units**

1 A school administrative unit may partner with another school administrative unit to
2 fulfill any of the requirements of this chapter.

3 **§6995. Rules**

4 The department shall adopt rules as necessary to administer this section. Rules adopted
5 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
6 subchapter 2-A.

7 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §10010-A** is enacted to read:

8 **§10010-A. Spouse or child of active duty member of United States Armed Forces**

9 A spouse or child of an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is
10 assigned to duty out of the State immediately following assignment to duty in the State is
11 eligible for in-state tuition rates and fees at the University of Maine System, the Maine
12 Community College System or the Maine Maritime Academy as long as the spouse or child
13 resides continuously in the State while enrolled in the postsecondary institution.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill establishes the Purple Star Schools Program administered by the Department
16 of Education to recognize school administrative units that provide strong services and
17 support for military-connected students and their families.

18 The bill also provides that:

19 1. A dependent of a member of the United States Armed Forces who has received
20 official military orders to relocate to this State is eligible to apply to a virtual public charter
21 school;

22 2. A military-connected student whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to
23 the State while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order is considered a
24 resident of the school administrative unit in which the address identified by the parent is
25 located. The term "military-connected student" is defined in the bill; and

26 3. A spouse or child of an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who
27 is assigned to duty out of the State immediately following assignment to duty in the State
28 is eligible for in-state tuition rates and fees at the University of Maine System, the Maine
29 Community College System or the Maine Maritime Academy as long as the spouse or child
30 resides continuously in the State while enrolled in the postsecondary institution.