# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 322**

*January Session, 2025*

Substitute House Bill No. 7123

*House of Representatives, March 27, 2025*

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. FOSTER of the 57th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY FAMILIES AND EDUCATION POLICIES REGARDING ENROLLMENT FOR PURPOSES OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND PLACEMENT STABILITY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subparagraph (E) of subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(E) (i) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect at the beginning of each school year an educational program for each child or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education, and shall provide **[**(i)**]** (I) the informational handout described in section 10-74v to each child with an individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and **[**(ii)**]** (II) the Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the Department of Education and the rights and resources available to such child in the provision of special education and related services.

(ii) If, after the start of a school year, a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, enrolls in a school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education, as a result of such member having received military orders directing such member to the state or any other documents from the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to the state, and such child enrolls with an individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 from such child's prior school, such board shall take necessary steps, including, but not limited to, the transfer of any records and prior evaluations, the performance of any reevaluations, not later than thirty days after such child's enrollment, and the holding of any meetings, to ensure a minimally disruptive transition to the provision of comparable services.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-186 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Each local or regional board of education shall furnish, by transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child five years of age and over and under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or technical education and career school may attend public school, except as provided in section 10-233c and subsection (d) of section 10-233d. For purposes of establishing the residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, and who is seeking enrollment in a school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education for a town in which such child is not yet a resident, such board shall accept the military orders directing such member to the state or any other documents from the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to the state as proof of residency. If a child of a member of the armed forces is enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education for a town, and such member has received military orders directing such member from such town or any other documents from the armed forces indicating a change of residency from such town during the school year, such child may continue to be enrolled in such

school while such member remains a member of the armed forces. Any board of education which denies school accommodations, including a denial based on an issue of residency, to any such child shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or the child, in the case of an emancipated minor, a pupil eighteen years of age or older or an unaccompanied youth, as described in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, of his or her right to request a hearing by the board of education in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. A board of education which has denied school accommodations shall advise the board of education under whose jurisdiction it claims such child should be attending school of the denial. For purposes of this section, (1) a "parent or guardian" shall include a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section 10-94g, and (2) a child residing in a dwelling located in more than one town in this state shall be considered a resident of each town in which the dwelling is located and may attend school in any one of such towns. For purposes of this subsection, "dwelling" means a single, two or three-family house or a condominium unit.

| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
|---|---|---|
| Section 1 | *July 1, 2025* | 10-76d(a)(10)(E) |
| Sec. 2 | *July 1, 2025* | 10-186(a) |

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***
In Section 1(a)(10)(E)(ii), ", as defined in section 27-103," was added for clarity.

***VA*** *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

## *OFA Fiscal Note*

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### *Explanation*

The bill does not have a fiscal impact. The bill requires: (1) local and regional school districts to transfer records and conduct evaluations within 30 days for military children with individualized education plans (IEPs) or 504 plans, and (2) allows military children to stay enrolled at their current school despite relocation orders. The first requirement exists under federal law, without the 30-day deadline, and the second is a practice already followed in Connecticut. It is anticipated that local and regional boards of education can meet these requirements with existing resources.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 7123**

***AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY FAMILIES AND EDUCATION POLICIES REGARDING ENROLLMENT FOR PURPOSES OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND PLACEMENT STABILITY.***

## SUMMARY

This bill requires local and regional school boards to take steps to ensure a minimally disruptive transition of a military-connected student who (1) enrolls at a school after the school year begins and (2) has an individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan from a prior school (see BACKGROUND). This applies when the student enrolls due to an armed forces member's military orders or other document directing the person to the state. For these students, the bill requires districts to (1) transfer records and evaluations, (2) perform a reevaluation within 30 days of the child's enrollment, and (3) hold any meetings.

Under the bill, a child of an armed service member is permitted to remain enrolled in a school when the service member relocates on orders, while the member remains a member of the armed forces.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

## BACKGROUND

### *Individualized Education Plans*

Federal regulations require an IEP to include (1) measurable annual goals and how the child's progress toward the goals will be measured; (2) special education and related services the child will receive; and (3) supplementary aids and services the child will receive, which are supports provided in regular education classes and nonacademic settings (34 C.F.R. § 300.320(a)(4)). The included services must be based on peer reviewed research to the extent practicable and be designed to help the child progress toward his or her annual goals, be involved and

make progress in the general education curriculum, participate in extracurricular and nonacademic activities, and be educated with other children with and without disabilities.

### *504 Plans*

Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects students with mental or physical disabilities from discrimination in public schools (29 U.S.C. § 794). Students who receive school accommodations under this law have them memorialized in a written plan, commonly known as "504 plans."

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)