General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7123

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **5540**

Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

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 Subparagraph (E) of subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):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 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 Subsection (a) of section 10-186 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):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 Purpose:

To (1) ease transitions for students of military families who require special education services when enrolling in new schools due to servicemembers' relocation orders, and (2) allow students of military families to remain enrolled in schools when servicemembers are relocated away from such schools.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]