

SENATE No. 2502

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**
—

SENATE, July 26, 2021.

The committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2429) of Walter F. Timilty, Michael O. Moore, Bradley H. Jones, Jr., James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2433) of John C. Velis, Thomas M. Stanley, David F. DeCoste, Steven G. Xiarhos and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents; (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3648) of Linda Dean Campbell and others relative to military spouse licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3697) of Thomas M. Stanley and others relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2502).

For the committee,
John C. Velis

SENATE No. 2502

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
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An Act relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Paragraph (d) of Section 1B of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2021 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words:-

3 if, in the opinion of the department, the requirements for licensure or certification of such
4 other state are substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure or certification in the
5 commonwealth.

6 SECTION 2. Paragraph (e) of Section 1B of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as
7 appearing in the 2021 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words:-

8 if, in the opinion of the department, the requirements for licensure or certification of such
9 other state are substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure or certification in the
10 commonwealth.

11 SECTION 3. Chapter 33 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2021 Official Edition,
12 is hereby amended by inserting after section 139:-

13 Section 140. EXPEDITED LICENSURE.

14 No later than 30 days following receipt of an application from (i) any person who is a
15 member of the armed forces or (ii) the spouse of any person who is a member of the armed
16 forces, the commissioner of the division of professional licensure and each of the boards of
17 registration and examination under the commissioner’s supervision shall either issue a license or
18 notify an applicant when the applicant’s military training or experience does not satisfy the
19 requirements for licensure and specify the criteria or requirements that the applicant failed to
20 meet and the basis for that determination.

21 SECTION 4. Section 38G of Chapter 71, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is
22 hereby amended by adding the following paragraph immediately following the paragraph
23 beginning with “Temporary Certificate”:-

24 “‘Military spouse certificate’, a license to teach which the commissioner of education
25 shall issue to a person who is the spouse of a service member, and the spouse and service
26 member reside in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a result of the service member’s
27 service in the U.S. armed forces, a Reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces, or the National Guard
28 of any state, when such spouse holds a valid teaching certificate from another state in good
29 standing but has not satisfied the certification testing requirements contained in this section. The
30 military spouse certificate shall be valid for at least three years. Service under a military spouse
31 certificate shall be counted as service in acquiring professional teacher status, contingent upon
32 the teacher passing the applicable certification tests.”

33 SECTION 5. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2021 Official Edition,
34 is hereby amended by inserting after section 97:-

35 Section 98. PURPLE STAR CAMPUS.

36 (a) In this section, “military-connected student” shall mean a student who is a dependent
37 of:

38 (1) a current or former member of:

39 (A) the United States military serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or
40 Coast Guard on active duty;

41 (B) Massachusetts National Guard; or

42 (C) a reserve force of the United States military; or

43 (D) a member of a military or reserve force described by Subdivision (A), (B), or (C)
44 who was killed in the line of duty.

45 (b) The department shall designate a school district campus as a Purple Star Campus if
46 the campus applies and qualifies for the designation under this section.

47 (c) To qualify as a Purple Star Campus, a campus must:

48 (1) designate a staff member as a military liaison, whose duties include:

49 (A) identifying military-connected students enrolled at the campus;

50 (B) serving as the point of contact between the campus and military-connected students
51 and their families;

52 (C) determining appropriate campus services available to military-connected students;

53 and

54 (D) assisting in coordinating campus programs relevant to military-connected students;

55 (2) maintain on the campus Internet website an easily accessible web page that includes
56 resources for military-connected students and their families, including information regarding:

57 (A) relocation to, enrollment at, registration at, and transferring records to the campus;

58 (B) academic planning, course sequences, and advanced classes available at the campus;

59 and

60 (C) counseling and other support services available for military-connected students
61 enrolled at the campus;

62 (3) maintain a transition program led by students, where appropriate, that assists military-
63 connected students in transitioning into the campus;

64 (4) offer professional development for staff members on issues related to military-
65 connected students; and

66 (5) offer at least one of the following initiatives:

67 (A) a resolution showing support for military-connected students and their families;

68 (B) recognition of the Month of the Military Child or Military Family Month with
69 relevant events hosted by the campus; or

70 (C) a partnership with a local military installation that provides opportunities for active
71 duty military members to volunteer at the campus, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip.

72 (D) To comply with a requirement under Subsection (c)(2), (4), or (5), a school district
73 campus may partner with the district to provide:

74 (1) an Internet website web page required under Subsection (c)(2) if the campus does not
75 have an Internet website;

76 (2) professional development required under Subsection (c)(4); or

77 (3) an initiative required under Subsection (c)(5).

78 (E) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to administer this
79 section.

80 SECTION 6. Section 94 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2021
81 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the last paragraph the following
82 paragraph:-

83 (u) For the purposes of this chapter:

84 (1) a dependent of a member of the United States Armed Forces who has received orders
85 to relocate in this state; or

86 (2) a dependent of a member of the United States Armed Forces who was previously
87 enrolled in high school in this state and does not reside in this state due to military deployment or
88 transfer, shall be considered a resident of this state and the applicable local school system.

89 SECTION 7. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2021 Official Edition,
90 is hereby amended by inserting after Section 6A the following section:-

91 Section 6B. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS WHO ARE MILITARY DEPENDENTS.

92 (a) As used in this chapter, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires
93 otherwise, the following meanings:-

94 "military-connected student", a student who is the dependent of either a person in the
95 active military service of the United States or in a full-time status during active service with a
96 force of the United States organized militia.

97 (b) A military-connected student whose parent or guardian is being relocated to the state
98 under military orders and is transferred to or is pending transfer to a military installation within
99 the state, shall be deemed to be a resident pupil of a school district for the purposes of
100 enrollment. A school district shall permit military-connected students to enroll preliminarily by
101 remote registration without charge and shall not require the parents or guardians of the military-
102 connected student or the student himself or herself to physically appear at a location within the
103 district to register the student, if the parents or guardians present evidence of military orders that
104 a parent or guardian will be stationed in this state during the current or following school year.
105 The parents or guardians may use an address within the school district where the military-
106 connected student is to be enrolled of a temporary on-base billeting facility, a purchased or
107 leased home or apartment, or federal government or public-private venture off-base military
108 housing. Proof of required residency shall not be required at the time of the remote registration
109 but shall be required within ten days of the student's attendance in the school district.

110 SECTION 8. Subsection (t) of Section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby
111 amended striking out subsection (t), and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:

112 (t) issue regulations defining resident of the commonwealth and proof of the same for the
113 purpose of admission and tuition expenses of public institutions of higher education and prepare

114 uniform proofs of residence to be used by all public institutions; provided, however, that insofar
115 as the Massachusetts Maritime Academy is designated a regional maritime academy by the
116 United States maritime administration, residents of the states comprising the designated region
117 and attending the Massachusetts Maritime Academy shall be considered Massachusetts residents
118 for the purposes of admission and tuition; and, that insofar as any person who is (i) a member of
119 the armed forces and stationed in this state pursuant to military orders, (ii) the spouse of any
120 person who is a member of the armed forces and stationed in this state pursuant to military
121 orders, or (iii) an unemancipated person whose parent is a member of the armed forces and
122 stationed in this state pursuant to military orders, shall be considered Massachusetts residents for
123 the purposes of admission and tuition.

124 SECTION 9. Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2021 Official
125 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section 191/3 entitled “In-state tuition
126 continuity.”

127 Section 191/3. IN-STATE TUITION CONTINUITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE
128 ARMED FORCES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

129 Any person who is a member of the armed forces and stationed in this state pursuant to
130 military orders shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student. The person, (i) while in
131 residence after his or her acceptance for matriculation at a constituent unit of the state system of
132 higher education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor or advanced degree, shall
133 not lose classification as an in-state student if the person is thereafter transferred on military
134 orders or retires.

135 The spouse of any person who is a member of the armed forces and stationed in this state
136 pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student. The spouse,
137 while in residence after the spouse's acceptance for matriculation at a constituent unit of the state
138 system of higher education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor or advanced
139 degree, shall not lose classification as an in-state student if the member of the armed forces is
140 thereafter transferred on military orders or retires.

141 An unemancipated person whose parent is a member of the armed forces and stationed in
142 this state pursuant to military orders shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student. The
143 student, (i) while in continuous attendance toward the degree for which the student is currently
144 enrolled, or (ii) while in residence after his or her acceptance for matriculation at a constituent
145 unit of the state system of higher education in a course of study leading to an associate, bachelor
146 or advanced degree, shall not lose classification as an in-state student if his or her parent is
147 thereafter transferred on military orders or retires.

148 SECTION 10. This act shall take effect immediately.