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 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA
 

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# HOUSE BILL

No. 1867 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, M. MACKENZIE, ROTHMAN, HELM, CIRESI,  
R. BROWN, PENNYCUICK AND POLINCHOCK, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

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SENATOR STEFANO, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, IN  
SENATE, AS AMENDED, JUNE 21, 2022

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AN ACT

1 ~~Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An <--~~  
 2 ~~act relating to the public school system, including certain~~  
 3 ~~provisions applicable as well to private and parochial~~  
 4 ~~schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the~~  
 5 ~~laws relating thereto," providing for military connected~~  
 6 ~~students.~~

7 AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), ENTITLED "AN <--  
 8 ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, INCLUDING CERTAIN  
 9 PROVISIONS APPLICABLE AS WELL TO PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL  
 10 SCHOOLS; AMENDING, REVISING, CONSOLIDATING AND CHANGING THE  
 11 LAWS RELATING THERETO," PROVIDING FOR PURPLE STAR SCHOOL  
 12 PROGRAM.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 ~~Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known <--~~  
 16 ~~as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an~~  
 17 ~~article to read:~~

18 ARTICLE XIII F

19 MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS

20 ~~Section 1301 F. Definitions.~~

21 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this article~~

22 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~

1 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

2 ~~"Department." The Department of Education of the~~  
3 ~~Commonwealth.~~

4 ~~"Military connected student." A student who is the dependent~~  
5 ~~of either an individual in the active military service of the~~  
6 ~~United States or in a full time status during active service~~  
7 ~~with a force of the Pennsylvania National Guard.~~

8 ~~"School." A school in a school district, charter school,~~  
9 ~~regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit~~  
10 ~~or career and technical school in this Commonwealth.~~

11 ~~Section 1302 F. Purple Star Schools.~~

12 ~~(a) Designation. The department shall designate a school~~  
13 ~~as a Purple Star School if the school applies and qualifies for~~  
14 ~~the designation under this article. To qualify as a Purple Star~~  
15 ~~School, a school must:~~

16 ~~(1) Designate a staff member as a military liaison,~~  
17 ~~whose duties include:~~

18 ~~(i) identifying military connected students enrolled~~  
19 ~~at the school;~~

20 ~~(ii) serving as the point of contact between the~~  
21 ~~school and military connected students and their~~  
22 ~~families;~~

23 ~~(iii) determining appropriate student services~~  
24 ~~available to military connected students; and~~

25 ~~(iv) assisting in coordinating programs relevant to~~  
26 ~~military connected students.~~

27 ~~(2) Maintain on the school district's publicly~~  
28 ~~accessible Internet website resources for military connected~~  
29 ~~students and their families, including information regarding:~~

30 ~~(i) relocation to, enrollment at, registration at~~

1 ~~and transferring records to the school;~~

2 ~~(ii) academic planning, course sequences and~~  
3 ~~advanced classes available at the school; and~~

4 ~~(iii) counseling and other support services~~  
5 ~~available for military connected students enrolled in the~~  
6 ~~school.~~

7 ~~(3) Maintain a transition program led by students, if~~  
8 ~~appropriate, which assists military connected students in~~  
9 ~~transitioning into the school.~~

10 ~~(4) Offer professional development for staff members on~~  
11 ~~issues related to military connected students.~~

12 ~~(5) Offer at least one of the following initiatives:~~

13 ~~(i) a resolution showing support for military~~  
14 ~~connected students and their families;~~

15 ~~(ii) recognition of the Month of the Military Child~~  
16 ~~or Military Family Month with relevant events hosted by~~  
17 ~~the school; or~~

18 ~~(iii) a partnership with a local military~~  
19 ~~installation that provides opportunities for active duty~~  
20 ~~military members to volunteer at the school, speak at an~~  
21 ~~assembly or host a field trip.~~

22 ~~(b) Regulations. The department shall promulgate rules and~~  
23 ~~regulations as necessary to administer this section.~~

24 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.~~

25 SECTION 1. THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN <--  
26 AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS AMENDED BY ADDING AN  
27 ARTICLE TO READ:

28 ARTICLE XV-K

29 PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM

30 SECTION 1501-K. SCOPE OF ARTICLE.

1 THIS ARTICLE RELATES TO THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.

2 SECTION 1502-K. DEFINITIONS.

3 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE  
4 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
5 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

6 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE  
7 COMMONWEALTH.

8 "MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT." A SCHOOL-AGED CHILD WHO IS A  
9 DEPENDENT OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

10 (1) AN ACTIVE OR A FORMER MEMBER OF ANY OF THE  
11 FOLLOWING:

12 (I) THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVING IN THE  
13 UNITED STATES ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE CORPS, SPACE  
14 FORCE OR COAST GUARD ON ACTIVE DUTY.

15 (II) THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD.

16 (III) A RESERVE FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED  
17 FORCES.

18 (2) A MEMBER SPECIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) WHO WAS  
19 KILLED IN THE ACTIVE LINE OF DUTY.

20 "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL." A NONPROFIT SCHOOL, OTHER THAN A PUBLIC  
21 SCHOOL WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH, WHERE A RESIDENT OF THIS  
22 COMMONWEALTH MAY LEGALLY FULFILL THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL  
23 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT AND WHICH MEETS THE  
24 REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 (PUBLIC  
25 LAW 88-352, 78 STAT. 241).

26 "PROGRAM." THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER  
27 SECTION 1503-K(A).

28 "PUBLIC SCHOOL." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL  
29 CHARTER SCHOOL OR AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

30 SECTION 1503-K. PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.

1 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM IS  
2 ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

3 (B) DESIGNATION.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE A PUBLIC  
4 SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL IF THE PUBLIC  
5 SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR THE  
6 DESIGNATION UNDER THE PROGRAM.

7 SECTION 1504-K. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

8 (A) QUALIFICATIONS.--IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE DESIGNATION  
9 AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL, A PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL DO ALL OF THE  
10 FOLLOWING:

11 (1) SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT CERTIFYING  
12 THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

13 (I) THE CRITERIA UNDER SECTION 1183.

14 (II) THE PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS UNDER THIS SECTION.

15 (2) DESIGNATE A STAFF MEMBER AS A MILITARY LIAISON. THE  
16 MILITARY LIAISON SHALL HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

17 (I) IDENTIFY A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT ENROLLED  
18 AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

19 (II) SERVE AS THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE  
20 PUBLIC SCHOOL AND A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE  
21 MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

22 (III) DETERMINE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SERVICES  
23 AVAILABLE TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

24 (IV) ASSIST IN COORDINATING SCHOOL PROGRAMS RELEVANT  
25 TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

26 (3) MAINTAIN AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE WEB PAGE ON THE PUBLIC  
27 SCHOOL'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE TO PROVIDE  
28 RESOURCES FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE MILITARY-  
29 CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, INCLUDING INFORMATION  
30 REGARDING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1           (I) RELOCATION TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL, ENROLLMENT AT  
2           THE PUBLIC SCHOOL, REGISTRATION AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND  
3           TRANSFERRING RECORDS TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

4           (II) ACADEMIC PLANNING, COURSE SEQUENCES AND  
5           ADVANCED CLASSES AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

6           (III) COUNSELING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES  
7           AVAILABLE FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

8           (4) MAINTAIN A TRANSITION INITIATIVE LED BY STUDENTS,  
9           WHEN APPROPRIATE, THAT ASSISTS A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT  
10          IN TRANSITIONING INTO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

11          (5) OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF MEMBERS ON  
12          ISSUES RELATED TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS.

13          (6) OFFER AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

14           (I) A RESOLUTION SHOWING SUPPORT FOR MILITARY-  
15           CONNECTED STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

16           (II) A COMMEMORATION OF EACH MONTH HONORING ACTIVE-  
17           DUTY MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS, INCLUDING RELEVANT EVENTS  
18           HOSTED BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

19           (III) A PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL MILITARY  
20           INSTALLATION THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE-DUTY  
21           MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE PUBLIC  
22           SCHOOL, SPEAK AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY OR HOST A SCHOOL FIELD  
23           TRIP.

24          (B) PARTNERSHIPS.--A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH ANOTHER  
25          PUBLIC SCHOOL TO MEET ANY PROGRAM REQUIREMENT.

26          SECTION 1505-K. QUALIFICATIONS FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS.

27          (A) QUALIFICATIONS.--IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE DESIGNATION  
28          AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL, A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL DO ALL OF THE  
29          FOLLOWING:

30           (1) SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT CERTIFYING

1 THAT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MEETS THE PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS  
2 UNDER THIS SECTION.

3 (2) DESIGNATE A STAFF MEMBER AS A MILITARY LIAISON. THE  
4 MILITARY LIAISON SHALL HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

5 (I) IDENTIFY A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT ENROLLED  
6 AT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

7 (II) SERVE AS THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE  
8 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL AND A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE  
9 MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

10 (III) DETERMINE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SERVICES  
11 AVAILABLE TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

12 (IV) ASSIST IN COORDINATING SCHOOL PROGRAMS RELEVANT  
13 TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

14 (3) MAINTAIN AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE WEB PAGE ON THE  
15 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE TO  
16 PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE  
17 MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, INCLUDING  
18 INFORMATION REGARDING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

19 (I) RELOCATION TO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, ENROLLMENT  
20 AT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, REGISTRATION AT THE NONPUBLIC  
21 SCHOOL AND TRANSFERRING RECORDS TO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

22 (II) ACADEMIC PLANNING, COURSE SEQUENCES AND  
23 ADVANCED CLASSES AVAILABLE AT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

24 (III) COUNSELING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES  
25 AVAILABLE FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

26 (4) MAINTAIN A TRANSITION INITIATIVE LED BY STUDENTS,  
27 WHEN APPROPRIATE, THAT ASSISTS A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT  
28 IN TRANSITIONING INTO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

29 (5) OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF MEMBERS ON  
30 ISSUES RELATED TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS.

1           (6) OFFER AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

2           (I) A RESOLUTION SHOWING SUPPORT FOR MILITARY-  
3           CONNECTED STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

4           (II) A COMMEMORATION OF EACH MONTH HONORING ACTIVE-  
5           DUTY MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS, INCLUDING RELEVANT EVENTS  
6           HOSTED BY THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

7           (III) A PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL MILITARY  
8           INSTALLATION THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE-DUTY  
9           MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE NONPUBLIC  
10          SCHOOL, SPEAK AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY OR HOST A SCHOOL FIELD  
11          TRIP.

12          (B) PARTNERSHIPS.--A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH  
13          ANOTHER NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TO MEET ANY PROGRAM REQUIREMENT.  
14          SECTION 1506-K. REGULATIONS.

15          THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO  
16          ADMINISTER THIS ARTICLE.

17          SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 180 DAYS.