

By: Lowe

H.B. No. 5381

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to protections for certain military dependents enrolled in a public school.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as "Rocky's Law".

SECTION 2. Subchapter 2, Chapter 25, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 25.906 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.906. PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN MILITARY DEPENDENTS.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Compact" means the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children executed under Section 162.002.

(2) "Uniformed services" means:

(A) the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, National Guard and Reserves, or Coast Guard;

(B) the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; or

(C) the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service.

(b) The provisions of Articles IV, V, VI, and VII of the Compact apply to the following children as if those children were children described by Article III of the Compact:

(1) a child of a veteran of the uniformed services who

1 was discharged or released through retirement, for a period of four  
2 years after the date of the veteran's retirement, if the veteran  
3 returns to the veteran's home of record on military orders; and

4 (2) a child of a member of the uniformed services who  
5 dies on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active  
6 duty, for a period of four years after the member's death.

7 (c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school  
8 that maintains an Internet website shall post on the district's or  
9 school's Internet website an easily accessible link to information  
10 regarding the Compact and the additional protections provided by  
11 this section. This tab should be simply labeled "MIC3" under the  
12 district's or school's main menu.

13 (d) The Texas Education Agency's Compact Council shall  
14 include a current or former Department of Defense Education  
15 Activity teacher.

16 (e) No personnel with criminal arrest records involving  
17 assault upon family, unrelated individuals or minors can work at  
18 any school that serves military-connected students.

19 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026  
20 school year.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.