

By: Lowe, Hinojosa, Bernal, Wilson,  
Tinderholt, et al.

H.B. No. 5381

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the interstate compact on educational opportunity for  
military children and other 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 Reserve, 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           (1) a child of a veteran of the uniformed services who  
2 was discharged or released through retirement, for a period of four  
3 years after the date of the veteran's retirement, if the veteran  
4 returns to the veteran's home of record on military orders; and

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

8           (c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school  
9 that maintains an Internet website shall post on the district's or  
10 school's Internet website home page an easily accessible link  
11 entitled "MIC3" that leads to information regarding the compact and  
12 the additional protections provided by this section.

13           (d) A school district or open-enrollment charter school  
14 that enrolls a child of a member of the uniformed services shall  
15 comply with all applicable provisions relating to persons not  
16 eligible for employment in public schools under Chapters [21](#) and [22](#).

17           SECTION 3. Article II(A), Section [162.002](#), Education Code,  
18 is amended to read as follows:

19           A. "Active duty" means: full-time duty status in the  
20 active uniformed service of the United States, including members of  
21 the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10  
22 U.S.C. Chapters ~~[Sections]~~ 1209 and 1211.

23           SECTION 4. Section [162.006](#)(b), Education Code, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25           (b) The State Advisory Council consists of:

26               (1) the commissioner of education or the  
27 commissioner's designee;

1           (2) a superintendent of a school district with a high  
2 concentration of military children designated by the agency;

3           (3) the governor or the governor's designee;

4           (4) the chair of the senate committee on education or  
5 the chair's designee;

6           (5) the chair of the house of representatives  
7 committee on public education or the chair's designee;

8           (6) a representative from each branch of the armed  
9 services of the United States that maintains an installation in the  
10 state, appointed by each respective branch; ~~and~~

11           (7) a classroom teacher who is or was employed at a  
12 school operated by the United States Department of Defense  
13 Education Activity designated by the agency; and

14           (8) representatives of other offices and stakeholder  
15 groups the agency deems appropriate.

16       SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026  
17 school year.

18       SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.