



# Senate Education Committee

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

**Senate Bill 159, Printer's No. 147**  
**Prime Sponsor: Robbins**

### **A. SYNOPSIS:**

Senate Bill 159 would allow the Governor to execute an interstate compact with other states in order to remove barriers to the educational success of children of military families that result from frequent moves and deployment of their parents. Most military children move through six to nine different school systems during their primary and secondary education years. The legislation was drafted by the Council of State Governments, in cooperation with the United States Department of Defense Office of Personnel and Readiness.

### **B. BILL ANALYSIS:**

The provisions of the compact would assist children of military families by facilitating timely enrollment and transfer of educational records, student placement in new schools, extension of time to receive immunizations, course paths consistent with previous schools, participation in extracurricular academic, athletic and social activities, and completion of graduation requirements for affected students, primarily seniors. Additionally, the compact would promote flexibility and cooperation among member states, educational systems and military families to help the affected students achieve educational success.

The compact provides for the creation of a State Council which would coordinate activities among the governmental, educational and military agencies of the states participating in the compact. The Council would appoint a military family education liaison to assist military families and the state in implementing the compact. In addition, the Governor of each participating state would appoint a compact commissioner responsible for administering and managing the state's participation in the compact. The military family education liaison and compact commissioner would be ex-officio members of the State Council, unless those individuals would already be full voting members of the State Council.

An Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children would be created to resolve disputes, promulgate rules, enforce compliance, offer training and issue opinions concerning the interpretation of the compact. Additionally, the Commission would report annually to the legislators, governors, judiciary and state councils of the

member states. Each member state would have one voting member on the Commission, who would be the state's compact commissioner. To fund its activities, the Commission would be permitted to collect an annual assessment from each member state, based upon a formula to be determined by the Commission.

Senate Bill 159 would take effect immediately upon its enactment.

**C. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAW:**

Senate Bill 159 would create an entirely new provision of Pennsylvania law.