

With credit to:
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Senator Ed Buttrey, R-Great Falls who will sponsor this bill in the 2013 Legislature
Representative Jean Price, D-Great Falls
Representative Bob Mehlhoff
Dr. Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent of Public Schools, Great Falls

Senate Bill XXXX

AN ACT to create and enact the “Montana Military Compacting Act” for educational opportunities for military children, relating to the age of school admission, the issuance of high school diplomas, and the charging of tuition; to provide for a report; to provide a funding source; and to provide an expiration date.

SECTION I PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this legislation to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families (Active duty members of uniformed services including National Guard, members or veterans of uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year, and uniformed service members who die on active duty for a period of one year) because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

1. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of educational records from a sending to a receiving school district or variations in entrance or age requirements; (Public schools only)
2. Facilitating the student placement process to ensure that children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment;
3. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility of children of military families for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities;
4. Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families; (if student is transferring during the senior year in high school, having met the qualifications for graduation from the sending school...but not the receiving school, a diploma can be received from the sending school)
5. Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student in order to achieve educational success for the children of military families.