

HOUSE BILL 615: Enrollment Stability for Military Students.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Homeland Security and Military and Date: April 15, 2025

Veterans Affairs. If favorable, re-refer to Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

Introduced by: Reps. Loftis, Potts, Lambeth, Willis **Prepared by:** Karyl Smith

Analysis of: First Edition Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 615 would give military families additional time to provide proof of residency for public school enrollment.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-366(a9) allows military children to remotely register to enroll in a local school administrative unit prior to residency in the State when certain conditions are met.

To qualify to remotely enroll prior to residency, the military child must have a parent or legal guardian (parent) on active military duty who is transferred or pending transfer pursuant to an official military order to a military installation or reservation in the State. A copy of the official military order transferring the parent must be provided to the school upon request. The parent must complete and submit required enrollment forms and documentation, other than proof of residency and documentation related to disciplinary actions.

The military child may then remotely enroll in a local school administrative unit, and may participate in school assignment, registering for courses, and applying for any other programs that require additional request or application. After the military child transfers into the State and prior to attendance, proof of residency and documentation related to disciplinary actions must be provided to the school.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 615 would amend G.S. 115C-366(a9) to allow military children that reside with a parent on active military duty to remotely register to enroll in a local school administrative unit prior to residency in the State subject to the following conditions:

- To qualify to remotely enroll prior to residency, all of the following conditions must be met:
 - o A parent is on active military duty, and (i) is transferred or pending transfer pursuant to an official military order to a military installation or reservation in the State or (ii) is separating from active duty service within the next 12 months and intends to establish residency in the State.
 - A copy of the official military order transferring the parent or an official military document showing an anticipated date of separation must be provided to the school upon request.
 - The parent must complete and submit required enrollment forms and documentation, other than documentation related to disciplinary actions.

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- Once registered to be enrolled, the following apply:
 - A local school administrative unit must allow the military child to participate in school assignment, registering for courses, and applying for any other programs that require additional request or application.
 - o The military child may attend school in the local school administrative unit until the later of (i) one year from the parent's reporting-for-duty or separation date or (ii) the end of the school year in which the student began attending the school. The parent must provide proof of residency before the expiration of the allotted period of attendance.
 - If a student begins attending a school in grade 11 or 12, the local school administrative unit
 must extend the allotted period of attendance to allow the student to attend through high
 school graduation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when it becomes law, and would apply beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.