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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- MILITARY CHILD ACT

Introduced By: Senators Felag, Burke, Tikoian, Raptakis, Appollonio, Euer, Britto,  
Bissaillon, Ciccone, and E Morgan

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 30 of the General Laws entitled "MILITARY AFFAIRS AND  
2 DEFENSE" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 30.4

4 THE MILITARY CHILD ACT

5 **30-30.4-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Military Child Act."

7 **30-30.4-2. Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter:

9 (1) "Military-connected student" means a student who is the dependent of either a person  
10 in the active military service of the United States or in a full-time status during active service with  
11 a force of the Rhode Island national guard.

12 **30-30.4-3. Advance enrollment.**

13 A military-connected student whose parent or guardian is being relocated to this state under  
14 military orders and is transferred to or is pending transfer to a military installation within the state,  
15 shall be deemed to be a resident pupil of a school system of a city or town for the purposes of  
16 enrollment. The Rhode Island board of education shall permit military-connected students to enroll  
17 preliminarily by remote registration without charge and shall not require the parents or guardians  
18 of the military-connected student or the student to physically appear at a location within the district  
19 to register the student, if the parents or guardians present evidence of military orders that a parent

1 or guardian shall be stationed in this state during the current or following school year. The parents  
2 or guardians may use an address within the school district where the military-connected student is  
3 to be enrolled of a temporary on-base billeting facility, a purchased or leased home or apartment,  
4 or federal government or public-private venture off-base military housing. Proof of required  
5 residency shall not be required at the time of the remote registration, but shall be required within  
6 ten (10) days of the student's attendance in the school system of the city or town where the student  
7 resides.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- MILITARY CHILD ACT

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1           This act would define "military-connected student" and permit military-connected students  
2 to enroll by remote registration upon presentation of military orders confirming that the parent or  
3 guardian shall be stationed in this state during the current or following school year.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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