

1-1 By: Lowe, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Middleton) H.B. No. 5381  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 15, 2025;  
1-3 May 16, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Education K-16; May 27, 2025, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 27, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the interstate compact on educational opportunity for  
1-22 military children and other protections for certain military  
1-23 dependents enrolled in a public school.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Rocky's Law.

1-26 SECTION 2. Subchapter 2, Chapter 25, Education Code, is  
1-27 amended by adding Section 25.906 to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 25.906. PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN MILITARY DEPENDENTS.

1-29 (a) In this section:

1-30 (1) "Compact" means the Interstate Compact on  
1-31 Educational Opportunity for Military Children executed under  
1-32 Section 162.002.

1-33 (2) "Uniformed services" means:

1-34 (A) the United States Army, Navy, Air Force,  
1-35 Space Force, Marine Corps, National Guard and Reserve, or Coast  
1-36 Guard;

1-37 (B) the Commissioned Corps of the National  
1-38 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; or

1-39 (C) the Commissioned Corps of the United States  
1-40 Public Health Service.

1-41 (b) The provisions of Articles IV, V, VI, and VII of the  
1-42 compact apply to the following children as if those children were  
1-43 children described by Article III of the compact:

1-44 (1) a child of a veteran of the uniformed services who  
1-45 was discharged or released through retirement, for a period of four  
1-46 years after the date of the veteran's retirement, if the veteran  
1-47 returns to the veteran's home of record on military orders; and

1-48 (2) a child of a member of the uniformed services who  
1-49 dies on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active  
1-50 duty, for a period of four years after the member's death.

1-51 (c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school  
1-52 that maintains an Internet website shall post on the district's or  
1-53 school's Internet website home page an easily accessible link  
1-54 entitled "MIC3" that leads to information regarding the compact and  
1-55 the additional protections provided by this section.

1-56 (d) A school district or open-enrollment charter school  
1-57 that enrolls a child of a member of the uniformed services shall  
1-58 comply with all applicable provisions relating to persons not  
1-59 eligible for employment in public schools under Chapters 21 and 22.

1-60 SECTION 3. Article II(A), Section 162.002, Education Code,  
1-61 is amended to read as follows:

2-1 A. "Active duty" means: full-time duty status in the  
2-2 active uniformed service of the United States, including members of  
2-3 the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10  
2-4 U.S.C. Chapters ~~Sections~~ 1209 and 1211.

2-5 SECTION 4. Section 162.006(b), Education Code, is amended  
2-6 to read as follows:

2-7 (b) The State Advisory Council consists of:  
2-8 (1) the commissioner of education or the  
2-9 commissioner's designee;

2-10 (2) a superintendent of a school district with a high  
2-11 concentration of military children designated by the agency;

2-12 (3) the governor or the governor's designee;

2-13 (4) the chair of the senate committee on education or  
2-14 the chair's designee;

2-15 (5) the chair of the house of representatives  
2-16 committee on public education or the chair's designee;

2-17 (6) a representative from each branch of the armed  
2-18 services of the United States that maintains an installation in the  
2-19 state, appointed by each respective branch; ~~and~~

2-20 (7) a classroom teacher who is or was employed at a  
2-21 school operated by the United States Department of Defense  
2-22 Education Activity designated by the agency; and

2-23 (8) representatives of other offices and stakeholder  
2-24 groups the agency deems appropriate.

2-25 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026  
2-26 school year.

2-27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-28 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-29 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-30 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-31 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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