Legislative Analysis

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INTERSTATE COMPACT ON MILITARY CHILDREN

House Bill 4813 (H-2) as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Pavlov
1st Committee: Education and Workforce
2nd Committee: Rules
Complete to 7-1-26

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4813 would amend 2008 PA 160, which contains the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The changes would expand the applicability of the provisions of the compact to the children of *currently enlisted* members of the ***uniformed services***. Presently, the compact applies to children whose parents are *active duty*, including National Guard and reservists on active duty orders (as well as certain children whose parents suffered injuries or passed away as the result of activities while on active duty). Currently and under the bill, the compact specifically states that its provisions do not apply to the children of inactive members of the National Guard and military reserves.

The compact defines the ***uniformed services*** as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Public Health Services and any component thereof. (The bill would amend the compact to add the underlined phrase to the definition.)

Children of military families would be amended to mean a school aged child or children enrolled in kindergarten though 12th grade who are in the household of a *currently enlisted* member (currently, the compact says *active duty* member).

The bill also would amend the compact to correct citations of federal law and to add a definition for the term *Armed Forces of the United States*, which would mean the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard, including any reserve components.

Finally, the bill would delete a current definition for the term *Armed Forces of the United States* from section 2 of the compact's enabling act, where its use applies to the appointment of Michigan's representative to the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which oversees the compact.

A compact is like a contract that states enter into by enacting it. The primary purpose of this compact is to establish common standards for handling the transfer of children of active duty military personnel should they need to change schools midyear from a school in one state to a school in another as the result of their parents' or legal guardians' being on active duty.

MCL 3.1041 and 3.1042

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The National Center for Interstate Compacts lists Michigan as a member of 30 different compacts, with the first enacted in 1947. The compact on educational opportunities for military children was adopted in Michigan via 2008 PA 160.[1] As of 2026, all 50 U.S. states are a part of the compact.

According to testimony presented in committee, the intent of the changes is to ensure that the children of enlisted armed forces personnel who are moving, but whose parents are not under active duty orders, are still able to receive the benefits espoused in the compact. While the number of children affected by the bill's proposed changes is not expected to be substantial, supporters stressed the importance of ensuring that all children impacted by their parents' military careers receive the full attention of schools to offer support and a successful transition.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4813 would increase costs to the state and could have an indeterminate, but likely minimal, impact on local school districts, public school academies (PSAs), and intermediate school districts (ISDs).

Each state pays dues to the Interstate Commission for Educational Opportunity for Military Children in an amount equal to $1.15 per active-duty, school-aged military child, with a $2,300 minimum and $69,000 maximum. Expanding eligibility under the compact to include children of all currently enlisted members of the uniformed services would increase Michigan's state dues in an amount equal to $1.15 per additional eligible child. For fiscal year 2027, the National Commission approved a dues increase to $1.78 per student.[2]

The number of additional eligible children is not known.

Districts, PSAs, and ISDs that enroll newly eligible children may incur minor administrative costs to comply with the compact; these costs would likely be absorbed using existing staff time. Affected districts, PSAs, and ISDs may also realize cost savings due to the compact providing flexibility for schools to waive courses and otherwise streamline enrollment and graduation processes for eligible students.

POSITIONS:

A representative of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs testified in support of the bill. (9-24-25)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

[1] https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2008-HB-5963
[2] https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MI-EOY-Report-FY26.pdf