



State Senator
TINA MAHARATH

3rd District

Sponsor Testimony
Senator Tina Maharath
Senate Bill 84
Education Committee
Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Good morning, Chairman Lehner, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Senate Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 84, legislation that is intended to increase transparency and better assist our military families transitioning into and around our school systems.

Under Senate Bill 84, at the time of enrollment or any time during the school year, a school district or chartered nonpublic school shall provide the opportunity for the individual enrolling a student to voluntarily state whether the student has a parent or guardian who is a member of the armed forces and who is either deployed to active duty or expects to be deployed to active duty during the school year.

Military families often encounter school challenges for their children, ranging from enrollment, eligibility, placement, and graduation due to frequent re-locations. According to the Department of Defense Education Activity, it is estimated that the average military family moves three times more often than the average non-military family.

Currently, Ohio participates in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which seeks to make transitions easier for the children of military families so they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals. The purpose of Senate Bill 84 is to provide an additional layer of protection and to ensure our military families have the best options possible during their school transitions.

I understand this is an issue in which many of my colleagues share expertise. I welcome the opportunity for a strong legislative discussion to assist our military parents and children in transitioning during their military duties. I look forward to a thoughtful legislative process and appreciate your attention to this important issue. I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 84. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.