

House Bill 885

By: Representatives Belton of the 112th, Hitchens of the 161st, Bonner of the 72nd, Holcomb of the 81st, and Nix of the 69th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Part 13 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to organization of schools and systems under the "Quality Basic
3 Education Act," so as to revise the definition of the term "military student"; to provide that
4 a military student may attend any public school in the local school system in which such
5 student resides, subject to certain conditions regarding transportation; to require local school
6 systems to allow military students to continue enrollment in their current public school for
7 specified periods of time regardless of a parent's change of residence, subject to certain
8 conditions regarding transportation and certain exceptions regarding student discipline and
9 attendance issues; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
10 purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Part 13 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
14 relating to organization of schools and systems under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is
15 amended by revising Code Section 20-2-295, relating to military student transfers, as
16 follows:

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"20-2-295.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'military student' means a dependent school aged child of a military service member who ~~lives on a military base or off-base in military housing within the previous 12 months~~ has received official military orders to transfer into or within this state.

(b) Beginning in school year ~~2017-2018~~ 2022-2023, a military student in this state shall be allowed to attend any public school that is located within the school system ~~in which the military base or off-base military housing~~ in which the student resides is located, provided space is available for additional enrollment. The parent shall assume the responsibility for and cost of transportation of the student to and from ~~the~~ any public school other than the public school in which the student would be enrolled based on his or her residence.

(c) Each local school system ~~in which a military base or off-base military housing is located~~ shall:

(1) Establish a universal, streamlined process available to all military students to implement the transfer requirements of this Code section; and

(2) Annually notify prior to each school year the parents of each military student by letter, by electronic means, or by such other reasonable means in a timely manner of the options available to the parent under this Code section.

(d) Each local school system shall allow a military student who has enrolled in and attended a public school in such school system for any portion of the current school year to continue to be enrolled in and attend such public school through the completion of the current school year regardless of any change of residence of such student's parent or guardian; provided, however, that, if the military student is enrolled in grade 11 during the current school year, then such student shall be allowed to continue to be enrolled in and attend such public school through completion of grade 12; and provided, further, that this subsection shall not prevent or preempt any public school from enforcing applicable laws, rules, regulations, or policies relating to student discipline, student attendance, or

44 determining the appropriate placement of students with disabilities. The parent shall
45 assume the responsibility for and cost of transportation of such student to and from such
46 school."

47 **SECTION 2.**

48 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.