

1 By: Lowe

H.B. No. 5381

2  
3 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

4 AN ACT

5 relating to protections for certain military dependents  
6 enrolled in a public school.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

8 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as "Rocky's Law".

9 SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 25, Education Code,  
10 is amended by adding Section 25.906 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 25.906. PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN MILITARY  
12 DEPENDENTS. (a) In this section:

13 (1) "Compact" means the Interstate Compact on  
14 Educational Opportunity for Military Children executed  
15 under Section 162.002.

16 (2) "Uniformed services" means:

17 (A) the United States Army, Navy, Air Force,  
18 Space Force, Marine Corps, National Guard and Reserves, or  
19 Coast Guard;

20 (B) the Commissioned Corps of the National  
21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; or

1           (C) the Commissioned Corps of the United  
2 States Public Health Service.

3       (b) The provisions of Articles IV, V, VI, and VII of  
4 the Compact apply to the following children as if those  
5 children were children described by Article III of the  
6 Compact:

7           (1) a child of a veteran of the uniformed  
8 services who was discharged or released through retirement,  
9 for a period of four years after the date of the veteran's  
10 retirement, if the veteran returns to the veteran's home  
11 of record on military orders; and

12           (2) a child of a member of the uniformed services  
13 who dies on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained  
14 on active duty, for a period of four years after the  
15 member's death.

16       (c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter  
17 school that maintains an Internet website shall post on the  
18 district's or school's Internet website an easily  
19 accessible link to information regarding the Compact and  
20 the additional protections provided by this section. This  
21 tab should be simply labeled "MIC3" under the district's  
22 or school's main menu.

1       (d) The Texas Education Agency's Compact Council  
2 shall include a current or former Department of Defense  
3 Education Activity teacher.

4       (e) No personnel with criminal arrest records  
5 involving assault upon family, unrelated individuals or  
6 minors can work at any school that serves military-  
7 connected students.

8       SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-  
9 2026 school year.

10       SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it  
11 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected  
12 to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III,  
13 Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote  
14 necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect  
15 September 1, 2025.