

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 2802

SPONSOR: Senator Haridopolos

SUBJECT: Military Student Education

DATE: April 14, 2003 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>Krasovsky</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>                    </u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
4.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
5.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
6.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

## I. Summary:

This bill provides that the Department of Education is to assist in the transition of school-aged military dependents into the Florida school system and identifies specific actions the Department is to take in furtherance of this goal. The bill also requires the Department to issue a report by October 1, 2003, summarizing its findings and activities.

This bill creates yet unnumbered sections of the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

The unique demands of military service often require military personnel and their dependents to relocate. According to the Department of Defense, one-third of all military members make a permanent change of station move each year.

Currently, 22 active military installations and 3 joint commands are located in Florida. In excess of 80,000 active-duty military personnel are based in Florida. Although the Department of Education does not maintain statistics on the number of school-age military dependents in Florida, it is reasonable to assume that this figure is significant.

The Department currently administers a number of programs and services to assist military personnel and their dependents. However, most of these programs are directed at the post-secondary level. Department representatives indicated that individual school districts generally work cooperatively with local military installations to assist in the transition of K-12 military students into their schools.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This bill directs the Department of Education to assist in the transition of military dependents into the public school system. Specifically, the bill provides that the Department is to assist such students by taking the following actions:

- Improving the timely transfer of records;
- Develop systems to ease student transition during the initial 2 weeks of enrollment;
- Promote practices that foster access to extracurricular programs;
- Establish procedures to lessen the adverse impact of moves from the end of the junior year as well as before and during the senior year;
- Encouraging partnerships between the military bases and school systems;
- Providing services for transitioning students when applying to and finding funding for post-secondary study; and
- Providing other assistance as identified by the Department, schools, and military personnel.

The bill provides that the Department is to identify its efforts and strategies for assisting military-connected students in transitioning to Florida schools, including the identification of acceptable equivalence for curriculum and graduation requirements, and report its findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2003.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

While the fiscal impact of this bill on the Department of Education is indeterminate, Department representatives indicated that the likely impact will be minimal.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

As part of its effort to address quality of life issues impacting Florida's military personnel, the Florida Defense Alliance has established a Military Family Transition Working Group. The Alliance has identified improved transitional services for military students as an objective in anticipation of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiative.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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