

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-200

REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ASSIGN TO THE
INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION A STUDY OF THE INTERSTATE
COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, the mobile military lifestyle creates tough challenges for
military children who attend, on average, six to nine (6-9) different school
systems from kindergarten to grade twelve (K-12); and

WHEREAS, through no fault of their own, military families often face
difficulties with enrollment, eligibility, placement, and timely graduation
of their children; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments' National Center for
Interstate Compacts and the Department of Defense, in collaboration with
federal, state, and local officials and national stakeholder organizations
representing numerous education groups, developed an interstate compact to
address the challenges that military children face due to frequent
relocations, which has come to be known as the Interstate Compact on
Educational Opportunity for Military Children; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military
Children, when enacted in all fifty (50) states, will allow military children
enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) who transfer between
school districts to be treated uniformly; and

WHEREAS, to participate, each state must adopt the Compact through
legislation, appoint representation to an ongoing governing commission, and
provide nominal funding of one dollar (\$1.00) per active duty military child
in the state; and

WHEREAS, currently, forty (40) of the fifty (50) states have adopted
the Compact, and every state surrounding Arkansas has adopted the Compact;
and

1 WHEREAS, each member state that participates in the Compact is provided
2 common guidelines and support for handling issues that impact military
3 children as they transition between schools; and
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5 WHEREAS, a number of states have conducted independent research that
6 concluded the Compact is an effective, multistate agreement to address the
7 unique needs of transitioning military children; and
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9 WHEREAS, in the 2009 Regular Session, the General Assembly enacted a
10 law regarding educational access for military children, Arkansas Code § 6-27-
11 101 et seq.; however, this act only put into law the policy portion of the
12 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and is
13 insufficient to make Arkansas a member of the Compact,
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15 NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 THAT the Legislative Council assign to the Interim Senate Committee on
20 Education a study of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for
21 Military Children.
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23 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the committee reviews, hears testimony on,
24 and works with all educational stakeholders to develop a noncontroversial
25 bill draft for introduction in the 2013 Regular Session that incorporates the
26 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the
27 necessary enabling law so that Arkansas can become a member of the Compact
28 and provide uniform treatment of military children.
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30 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the committee works with the Joint Budget
31 Committee, fiscal staff, and the Department of Education to ensure that the
32 necessary funding and appropriation is available for Arkansas to join the
33 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, an
34 amount that is estimated to be less than four thousand five hundred dollars
35 (\$4,500).
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Respectfully submitted,

Senator Eddie Joe Williams
District 28

By: JSE/CEH