

Date of Hearing: May 3, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 1605 (Gallagher) – As Amended April 17, 2023

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 5 - 1

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires a county office of education or charter school offering instruction in any of grades nine to 12 that provides on-campus access to employers to allow access to campus to the military services. In addition, the bill adds the United States Space Force to the military services a school district, county office of education, or charter school must allow on campus. Lastly, the bill defines “uniformed services” to include the Space Force for the purpose of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Potential ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs to county offices of education and charter schools offering instruction in any of grades nine to 12 that provides on-campus access to employers, to allow access to campus to the military services. Costs could include coordinating campus visits, providing notifications, and meeting space to military services. The state has 58 county offices of education and over 1,000 charter schools.
- 2) Potential ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools offering instruction in any of grades nine to 12 that provides on-campus access to employers to allow access to the Space Force. Costs could include coordinating campus visits, providing notifications, and meeting space to military services. The state has over 1,000 school districts.
- 3) Unknown, ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to facilitate the enrollment, placement, advancement, and transfer of the academic records of the children of Space Force members for the purposes of Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Costs would depend on the number of school-age children with parents in the Space Force. However, the number of students would likely be low, as the Space Force consists of only about 8,000 members nationwide. Costs would increase if the number of Space Force members with school-age children grows.

If the Commission on State Mandates determines the bill’s requirement to change the definition of “uniformed services” for purposes of the compact imposes additional duties on local educational agencies, the state would need to reimburse these costs or provide funding through the K-12 Mandate Block Grant.

**COMMENTS:**

**Background.** The Space Force trains, organizes and equips personnel or “guardians” to perform global space operations. Operations include developing and defending communication satellites, engineering global cybersecurity networks, supporting rocket launches, tracking space debris, and other duties.

Current law requires that if a school district provides on-campus access to employers through, for example, a job fair or other means then the school district cannot prohibit access to the military services. Current law does not include county offices of education or charter schools in this requirement. This bill adds county offices of education and charter schools to this requirements and also adds the Space Force to the existing definition of military services.

In addition, current law ratifies the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to facilitate the enrollment, placement, advancement, and transfer of the academic records of the children of military families for the purpose of removing barriers to their educational success. The compact defines “uniformed services” to mean the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United States Public Health Services. This bill adds the Space Force to the list of uniformed services.

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