

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 57 (Senator Simonaire)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Primary and Secondary Educators - Licenses and Public Profiles - Notation of
Veteran Status**

This bill *authorizes* the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to establish a process to include a notation of veteran status on the licenses and public profiles of primary and secondary educators. If MSDE establishes the process, applicants may submit documentation of veteran status and consent to the notation and to contact from appropriate Executive Branch agencies regarding eligibility for State or federal veterans benefits. If an applicant submits the required documentation and provides the necessary consent, MSDE must include a notation of veteran status on the applicant's license or public profile and, upon request and in accordance with applicable law, electronically transmit appropriate information to an Executive Branch agency. MSDE may adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: It is anticipated that MSDE can implement the process *authorized* by the bill without incurring additional costs, as discussed below. The bill is not anticipated to otherwise materially impact State operations or finances, as discussed below.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially impact local government operations or finances, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Notation of Veteran Status

Generally, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Department of General Services, each unit in the Maryland Department of Labor, and each health occupations board are authorized to establish a process to include a notation indicating veteran status on a license, certificate, or registration under the entity's purview. Health occupations boards are also authorized to include veteran status on public profiles.

Department of Veterans and Military Families

The Department of Veterans and Military Families exists as a principal department of State government and is responsible for, among other duties, delivering services and programs to assist the State's veterans, their families, and survivors in obtaining State, federal, and local benefits provided by law in recognition for their service.

Certification/ Licensure

An individual generally may not be employed as a teacher, principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent, or county superintendent unless they are eligible to be issued a certificate (licensure) by the State Superintendent.

According to regulations, an applicant (or a local school system on the applicant's behalf) must submit an application, required documentation, and applicable fees to MSDE. Official transcripts and required test scores must be verified directly by the issuing institution or testing entity to MSDE's satisfaction. MSDE reviews submitted materials to determine eligibility for licensure, and license holders are responsible for maintaining current contact information and renewing the license as required.

State and Local Fiscal Effect: The bill authorizes, rather than requires, MSDE to establish a specified process related to veteran status. MSDE advises that, if it elects to implement the process, it would incorporate the changes during a scheduled licensure system upgrade to avoid additional costs, as implementing the changes outside of a planned upgrade could result in a fiscal impact.

Based on MSDE data, there are approximately 63,700 teachers in Maryland. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 1.2% of teachers in the Northeast region are veterans, suggesting that approximately 764 Maryland teachers may be veterans. Although the bill may facilitate additional veterans applying for and being deemed eligible for certain

benefits, any associated impact is not anticipated to materially affect State or local finances or operations.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Veterans and Military Families; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2026
jg/jkb

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510