



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 25

February Session, 2026

House Bill No. 5259

House of Representatives, March 16, 2026

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. FELIPE of the 130th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 10-253 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes,
5 educational services shall be provided by each local and regional board
6 of education to homeless children and youths in accordance with the
7 provisions of 42 USC 11431, et seq., [as amended from time to time]
8 revised to December 23, 2022. If a homeless child or youth is denied
9 school accommodations by a local or regional board of education on the
10 basis of residency, such homeless child or youth shall be entitled to a
11 hearing conducted pursuant to section 10-186. An unaccompanied
12 youth, as described in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time,
13 shall be entitled to knowledge of and have access to all educational,
14 medical or similar records in the cumulative record of such
15 unaccompanied youth maintained by a local or regional board of

16 education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	10-253(f)
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HSG *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact as it requires local and regional boards of education to comply with existing federal law.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5259*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.*****SUMMARY**

Existing state law specifically requires boards of education to provide educational services to homeless children and youths in conformity with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (see BACKGROUND). This bill maintains this requirement but specifies that these services must be provided as established in federal law as of December 23, 2022.

As under existing law, the requirement applies regardless of conflicting state statutes (like those referring to current federal law).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND***McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act***

Under the federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act (“McKinney-Vento”), states must ensure that each homeless child and homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children. This includes requiring states to ensure that their school district residency laws do not create obstacles for homeless students to attend school (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.). McKinney-Vento was originally enacted in 1987.

Federal law defines “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes those sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (42 U.S.C. § 11434a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/05/2026)