

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1689

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, Eubanks

By: Senator D. Wallace

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TO GRANT ACCESS TO ITS FACILITIES TO OFFICIAL RECRUITING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MILITARY; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN STATE-SUPPORTED POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO GRANT ACCESS TO ITS FACILITIES TO OFFICIAL RECRUITING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MILITARY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TO GRANT ACCESS TO ITS FACILITIES TO MILITARY RECRUITERS; AND TO REQUIRE CERTAIN STATE-SUPPORTED POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO GRANT ACCESS TO ITS FACILITIES TO MILITARY RECRUITERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-13-626 is amended to read as follows:

6-13-626. Access of military recruiters to school facilities ~~and records~~ - Definitions.

~~(a) If the board of directors of a school district permits access to the school grounds, facilities, and records by any person or group of persons whose purpose is to make students aware of occupational and educational options and opportunities, the~~ A public school district board of directors shall also permit such grant access ~~on the same basis~~ within each high school in its district to ~~official recruiting representatives of the military forces~~



recruiters of the state and the United States to enable those official recruiting representatives to inform students of educational and career opportunities available in the military.

(b) If a public high school does not grant access within the public high school to prospective employers, institutions of higher education, career entities, educational entities, and occupational entities, then the public high school shall grant only limited access within the public high school to military forces recruiters only to the extent to allow the military forces recruiters to engage with students in grades ten through twelve (10-12) in an in-person setting during normal school hours and at events that are open to the public and outside of normal school hours.

(c) A military forces recruiter shall be permitted to engage with all students in a public high school regardless of academic standing, class enrollment, career aspirations, or participation in extracurricular activities.

(d)(1) Each public high school shall provide an equal opportunity for a military forces recruiter to present in person to students in grades ten through twelve (10-12).

(2)(A) A military forces recruiter shall not be restricted by a public school district to specific events, locations, or time periods unless the restrictions to specific events, locations, or time periods apply to prospective employers, institutions of higher education, career entities, educational entities, and occupational entities.

(B) However, a restriction under subdivision (d)(2)(A) of this section shall not prevent access of military forces recruiters to public high schools as defined by this section.

(e)(1) A military forces recruiter shall be permitted to distribute and collect information, administer surveys, and receive student contact details in the same manner and under the same conditions as prospective employers, institutions of higher education, career entities, educational entities, and occupational entities.

(2) A public high school shall not impose additional privacy or administrative barriers or parental consent requirements on a military forces recruiter that are not imposed on prospective employers, institutions of higher education, career entities, educational entities, and occupational entities.

(f) The Secretary of the Department of the Military shall:

(1) Collect information from Arkansas National Guard recruiters regarding compliance with this section by public school districts; and

(2) Prepare and submit an annual compliance report to the Secretary of the Department of Education based on information collected under subdivision (f)(1) of this section that shall:

(A) Identify each public school district found to be in violation of this section; and

(B) Explain the basis for determining a public school district is in violation of this section.

(g)(1) Each public high school shall inform all students in grades ten through twelve (10-12) of opportunities to receive direct military forces recruiter engagement and information about educational and career opportunities available in the military forces.

(2) The information required under subdivision (g)(1) of this section shall be provided electronically and through a student advisory or homeroom session or class period.

(h) As used in this section:

(1) "Access" means the ability of military forces recruiters to:

(A) Engage with all students in grades ten through twelve (10-12) in an in-person setting during normal school hours and at events that are open to the public and outside of normal school hours;

(B) Present career and educational opportunities to students in the same manner and under the same conditions as prospective employers, institutions of higher education, career entities, educational entities, and occupational entities; and

(C) Collect and distribute information, sign up students for further engagement, and schedule follow-up meetings to the same extent as prospective employers, institutions of higher education, career entities, educational entities, and occupational entities; and

(2) "Military forces" means the Arkansas National Guard, United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, and the federal reserve components of each of the federal bodies.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 50, Subchapter 1, is amended

to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-50-107. Access of military forces recruiter to career and precollege academies and secondary career and technical centers – Definition.

(a) A state-supported career academy, precollege academy, secondary career center, or technical center shall permit access to official recruiting representatives of the military forces to enable those representatives to inform students enrolled in the state-supported career academy, precollege academy, secondary career center, or technical center of educational and career opportunities available in the military forces.

(b) As used in this section, "military forces" means the Arkansas National Guard, United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, and the federal reserve components of each of the federal bodies.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-61-144. Access of military recruiter to postsecondary institution facilities – Definition.

(a) A state-supported institution of higher education shall permit access to official recruiting representatives of the military forces to enable those representatives to inform students enrolled in the state-supported institution of higher education of educational and career opportunities available in the military.

(b) As used in this section, "military forces" means the Arkansas National Guard, United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, and the federal reserve components of each of the federal bodies.

APPROVED: 3/20/25