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Mr. Chairman and members of the Education committee,

Current language in 15.1-08-02 states a school board member must reside on the military installation.

However, more and more military members and their families live off the base and commute to work. Many times, these people bring their children with them to work, and drop them off at the base school. Just like in many other elected positions, it has become harder and harder to find quality candidates who are willing to run and serve. This bill now allows an active member or spouse of the military installation, and retired member or spouse of the military installation whose permanent residence is within 20 miles of the military installation.

Through discussion with the School Board Association, they recommended the 20 mile radius, because 20 miles east of the Grand Forks Air Force Base puts you in Minnesota.

I ask for a do pass recommendation, and I'll stand for any questions.