

GEORGIA

Summary of Legislation

House Bill 821, enacted in 2016, states that each professional board shall adopt rules and regulations that allow military spouses to qualify for temporary licenses, licenses by endorsement, expedited licenses, or a combination by July 1, 2017. In order to qualify, spouses need to be married to a Service member (Active or Reserve) or transitioning Service member (i.e., a member of the military on Active Duty status or on separation leave who is within 24 months of retirement or 12 months of separation) of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard. In addition, spouses need to hold licenses from another jurisdiction with substantially similar or greater requirements.

Location of Bill:

House Bill 821 - <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20152016/HB/821>

Results from Data Collection

General Findings

- All six boards have unique processes for spouses. All board staff are aware of legislation except for the Real Estate Commission.
- Effective on July 1, 2017, all boards began to expedite licensing procedures for spouses except for the Real Estate Commission.
- The Board of Cosmetology and Barbering is the only board that allows licensure by endorsement.
- No occupational board offers temporary licenses for spouses.
- No information was available from any board about how many spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

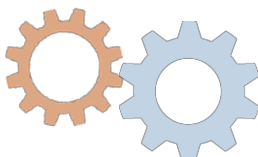
- Military spouses may apply for a cosmetology license by endorsement if they hold a valid, active license from another jurisdiction with equivalent requirements. If requirements in the other jurisdiction are less than the board's, spouses may be asked to take an exam or complete additional hours.
- To qualify, spouses must be married to an Active Duty Service member or a transitioning Service member within 24 months of retirement or 12 months of separation.
- The board does not offer expedited licensure for spouses.
- It takes approximately 15 days to process the applications once they are submitted.

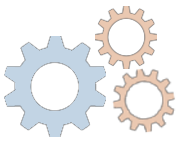
Legislation Meets Best Practices Guidelines for Military Spouse Licensure Portability by:

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Licensure by endorsement
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Temporary or provisional licensing
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Expedited application process

Not addressed in legislation

Addressed in legislation





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Dental Hygiene

- The board provides expedited application review for spouses.
- To be eligible for licensure by credentials, spouses need to pass clinical and jurisprudence examinations and provide license verification for every dental hygiene license ever held, official transcript, and National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) scores.
- Completed applications will be reviewed within 14 business days of submission and shall either be granted or referred to the full board for review. If an application is referred to the full board for review, it shall be reviewed and considered by the board no later than its next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Massage Therapy

- Spouses that hold an active license from another jurisdiction and who are not Georgia residents may apply for a provisional permit.
- Provisional permit holders must work under the direct supervision of a licensed massage therapist. The permit expires within six months and cannot be renewed.
- Applications are processed within 25 business days.

Mental Health Counseling

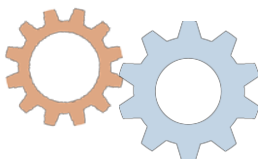
- To be eligible for endorsement, spouses must provide verifications of a minimum of two years of unrestricted licensure at the level of a Georgia licensed professional counselor, in good standing, from another jurisdiction.
- Spouses must also provide verifications of passing scores on the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE), or National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE).
- Once the application is submitted, it takes approximately 15 days for the application to be processed.

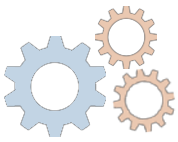
Occupational Therapy

- Spouses who have met all requirements for licensure except for the exam or 320 hours of clinical experience may be granted a 90-day limited permit. If so, they must be supervised by a licensed occupational therapist.
- The 90-day limited license is non-renewable. After the exam or clinical experience requirements are fulfilled, spouses will be granted a permanent license.
- Once submitted, applications will be reviewed within 25 business days.

Real Estate Commission

- Reciprocity applications require spouses to submit a certified license history from the jurisdiction where they are licensed and a criminal report; in addition, they also need to pass the state portion of Georgia's licensing examination.
- Once an application is submitted, the average processing time is three to five days.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate for occupational boards to allow licensure by endorsement and offer temporary licenses for military spouses.
- Continue to raise awareness of the importance of licensure portability for the financial and personal well-being of military families and the retention of Service members.

For additional information, please contact:

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