

Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

HAWAII

Summary of Legislation

Enacted in 2012, House Bill 2257, which replaced Senate Bill 2395, states that military spouses shall be permitted licensure by endorsement or reciprocity if they are already licensed in another jurisdiction under licensure requirements that are equivalent to or exceed the requirements in Hawaii. In addition, boards are required to expedite licensure for spouses and may issue temporary licenses if certain requirements are met.

Enacted in 2013, ACT 185, SLH 2013 relates to professional and vocational licensing for nonresident military spouses by limiting licensure by endorsement or reciprocity to spouses who are present in Hawaii for at least one year pursuant to military orders. The Act specifies that a license issued to a military

Legislation Meets Best Practices Guidelines for Military Spouse Licensure Portability by: Licensure by endorsement Temporary or provisional licensing Expedited application process Not addressed in legislation

Addressed in legislation

spouse by endorsement or reciprocity shall be valid for a maximum of five years in the aggregate.

Location of Bills:

Bill 2395 - http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Archives/measure_indiv_Archives.aspx?billtype=SB&bill number=2395&year=2012

Bill 2257 - http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Archives/measure_indiv_Archives.aspx?billtype=HB&bill number=2257&year=2012

ACT 185, SLH 2013 - http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2013/bills/GM1288 .PDF

Results from Data Collection

General Findings

- All board staff were aware of legislation that supports licensure portability for military spouses, and there is a link on each board's website regarding the legislation.
- Only the Cosmetology and Dental Hygiene boards have a unique process for spouses, which includes expediting spouses' applications.
- No board allows for licensure by endorsement or offers temporary licenses.
- Except for staff at the Cosmetology board, staff were unaware of the number of spouses who transferred their licenses in the last year.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

• The board does not allow for licensure by endorsement nor does it offer temporary licenses for spouses.



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Results from Data Collection (continued)

- Applications for spouses are expedited, and to qualify, they must be married to a Service member who holds a permanent change of station (PCS) military order and be stationed in Hawaii for at least one year.
- Once submitted, it takes 15 to 20 business days for an application to be approved.
- Approximately five spouses applied for cosmetology licenses in the last year.

Dental Hygiene

- To transfer their licenses, spouses must have graduated from a certified dental hygiene program, have local anesthesia certification, have passed required exams, and provide license verification from another jurisdiction.
- The board expedites applications for spouses by processing the application within four weeks.

Massage Therapy

- Licensure requirements include a full application, 150 hours of in-class coursework, 420 hours of practical massage training, current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate, and passing the State Massage Licensing Exam.
- The average processing time cannot be estimated because it is determined on an individual basis.

Mental Health Counseling

- To obtain a counselor license, spouses must submit a full application, meet education requirements, conduct 300 hours of pre-degree supervised client contact, and finish 3,000 hours of postgraduate supervised experience completed in no less than two years and no more than four years.
- Once submitted, the application is processed in six to eight weeks.

Occupational Therapy

- Spouses must fill out an application form, meet education requirements, complete supervised work experience, and pass the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.
- The average processing time cannot be estimated because it is determined on an individual basis.

Real Estate Commission

- The board does not allow for licensure via endorsement or reciprocity for any out-of-state licensee, and there is no unique process for spouses.
- To be eligible for real estate salesperson licenses, military spouses must complete a 60 hour Hawaii salesperson pre-licensing course and pass the salesperson's license exam.
- Once the application is submitted, the average processing time is 15 to 20 business days.





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Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Disseminate information regarding policies that support military spouse licensure portability to Service members who have a permanent change of station (PCS) and their spouses.
- Recommend training for occupational board staff to improve their understanding and application of the state legislation.

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