

## ALABAMA

### Summary of Legislation

House Bill 638, enacted in 2012, applies to military spouses that live with an Active Duty Service member who relocated to and is stationed in Alabama under official military orders. Spouses must possess a valid license or certificate in another state, district, or territory of United States with licensing or certification requirements greater than or substantially similar to the requirements of each occupational board. Occupational boards shall expedite the application process and spouses may work in Alabama until a full license is granted.

Location of Bill:

House Bill 638 - <https://legiscan.com/AL/bill/HB638/2012>

### 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
<input type="radio"/>	Not addressed in legislation
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Addressed in legislation

### Results from Data Collection

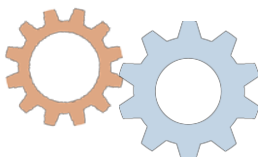
General Findings

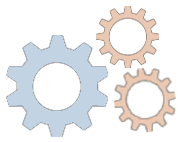
- The process to transfer licenses is similar for all new residents and the only board that has a unique process for military spouses is the Board of Examiners in Counseling.
- Besides the Board of Examiners in Counseling, staff were unaware of the legislation that supports licensure portability for spouses.
- No information was available pertaining to the number of spouses that have transferred their licenses in the last year.
- All boards offer a process to transfer occupational licenses via endorsement or reciprocity to ease the application process for spouses that have a license in another jurisdiction.

Findings Specific to Each Board

*Cosmetology*

- To transfer a license, spouses need to request that verification of their license from the previous state be sent directly to the Alabama board.
- The board will then send spouses the paperwork that needs to be completed and notify spouses if they need to take any exams.
- Typically, the entire process takes six weeks to three months.





## Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

### Results from Data Collection (continued)

#### *Dental Hygiene*

- The board offers a three-year Special Purpose License for practice across state lines and it is considered a full license.
- To be eligible for the Special Purpose License, spouses must pass background verification from Professional Background Information Services (PBIS) and submit an application to the dental board.
- It takes approximately 45-90 days for background verification plus two months to process the licensure application.

#### *Massage Therapy*

- To transfer a massage therapy license, spouses need to have at least 650 education hours from an accredited massage therapy school and be certified by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB).
- The average processing time cannot be estimated because it varies from case to case.

#### *Mental Health Counseling*

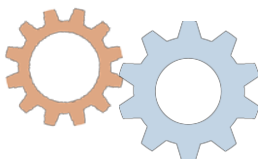
- Priority is given to military spouses' applications and spouses' eligibility does not depend on the Service members' military status (e.g., Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve, Veteran, etc.) or the length of time they have resided in Alabama.
- Spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction may apply for license transfer via endorsement.
- A provisional license may be issued to spouses who are currently licensed in another jurisdiction but have not met academic, experience, or examination requirements of the board.
- The process to transfer a counseling license varies depending upon the spouse's qualifications, but the board expedites applications of military spouses.

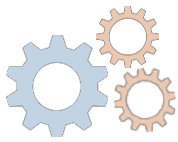
#### *Occupational Therapy*

- To be licensed in occupational therapy, spouses will need to complete an application, and provide letters of verification from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) and from each state where they hold a license.
- License approval usually takes one to two days after spouses submit their materials.

#### *Real Estate Commission*

- To be eligible for reciprocity, spouses must have been issued a real estate license within the last three years and submit verification of licensure.
- Once all materials have been submitted, spouses' licenses are approved in three business days.





# Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

## Recommendations

### Future efforts could:

- Provide training to occupational boards to improve staff's understanding of procedures to facilitate the transfer of licenses for military spouses.
- Inform military spouses about how to benefit from the legislation to ensure they have the knowledge needed to transfer their professional licenses after a permanent change of station (PCS).

### **For additional information, please contact:**

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