



## ARKANSAS

### Summary of Legislation

Arkansas Code § 17-1-106 (from 2013), House Bill 1723 (from 2015), and House Bill 1184 (from 2017) indicate that military spouses shall be able to secure employment with temporary licenses while completing the application process for full licensure. As long as spouses are in good standing of a substantially equivalent license, boards shall expedite the process for full licensure and allow a full or partial exemption from continuing education. Military spouses are defined as spouses of Active Duty Service members stationed in Arkansas or returning military Veterans within one year of their discharge from Active Duty.

#### Location of Bill:

*Arkansas Code § 17-1-106* - <http://law.justia.com/codes/arkansas/2015/title-17/subtitle-1/chapter-1/section-17-1-106/>

*House Bill 1723* - <ftp://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Bills/2015/Public/HB1723.pdf>

*House Bill 1184* - <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2017/2017R/Bills/HB1184.pdf>

### 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

### Results from Data Collection

#### General Findings

- Board staff were aware of legislation that supports licensure portability for military spouses except for the staff at Cosmetology and Massage Therapy.
- Mental Health Counseling and Occupational Therapy boards offer accommodations for spouses that include expedited applications and temporary licenses.
- Mental Health Counseling board was the only board that had information about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.

#### Findings Specific to Each Board

##### Cosmetology

- To be eligible for reciprocity, military spouses need to hold valid licenses from another jurisdiction and pass written, practical, and Arkansas state law exams.
- Once the application is submitted, it takes approximately 10 days to be processed.

##### Dental Hygiene

- Licenses can be issued by credentials for spouses who are licensed and have been practicing continuously for the past five years in other states.
- Once an application is submitted, staff reported that the length of time to transfer licenses varies and cannot be estimated.





# Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

## Results from Data Collection (continued)

### *Massage Therapy*

- To be eligible for reciprocity, military spouses must submit proof of passing scores on either the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) or National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) exam, out-of-state license verifications, and education records. Spouses must also pass a background check.
- Once the application is submitted, it takes two to three months to get a license transferred.

### *Mental Health Counseling*

- The board offers temporary licenses and expedited processing for military spouses.
- The temporary licenses are valid for six months to one year, depending on spouses' qualifications.
- Once the application process is completed, staff indicated that the length of time to transfer licenses varies and cannot be estimated.
- Approximately 15 spouses have transferred their license in the last year.

### *Occupational Therapy*

- The board offers temporary licenses for spouses; spouses still need to submit a full application for licensure.
- Spouses may work under a temporary license for up to two months, and the temporary license can be renewed.
- The process to transfer an occupational license following application takes six weeks, but expedited military spouse processing takes about two weeks.

### *Real Estate Commission*

- Military spouses need to successfully complete 60 hours of real estate education and pass the licensure exam.
- Spouses currently licensed in another state may request a waiver of the general portion of the licensure exam.
- After the completion of the application, the average processing time is seven to ten days.

## Recommendations

### Future efforts could:

- Encourage training for occupational board staff to improve their understanding and application of AR Code § 17-1-106 and HB 1723.
- Advocate for more uniform procedures that boards can adopt to determine how to make the transfer of spouses' licenses easier.



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