



# CALIFORNIA

## Summary of Legislation

Enacted in 2012, Assembly Bill 1904 requires occupational boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs to expedite licensure process for military spouses who are married to, in a domestic partnership, or in another legal union with Active Duty Service members that are assigned to a duty station in California. To be eligible, military spouses must hold current licenses in other jurisdictions. Assembly Bill 186, which was enacted in 2014, adds to AB 1904 by requiring boards to issue temporary licenses to spouses that are valid for 12 months.

Location of Bills:

*Bill 1904* - [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140AB186](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB186)  
*Bill 186* - [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201120120AB1904](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120AB1904)

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

- Board staff are aware of legislation that supports licensure portability for military spouses.
- All occupational boards, except for the Massage Therapy board, expedite military spouses' applications.
- No information was available about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.

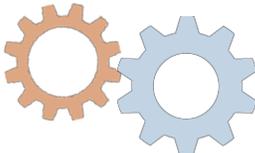
Findings Specific to Each Board

*Cosmetology*

- The board expedites the application process for military spouses.
- Military spouses can apply by reciprocity if they complete the application, pay required fees, and currently hold active licenses in good standing for three of the last five years from another jurisdiction.
- It takes four to six weeks to approve a spouse's application, whereas for other applicants, it can take up to 12 weeks.

*Dental Hygiene*

- The board expedites the application process for military spouses by prioritizing their applications.





## Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

### Results from Data Collection (continued)

- Spouses can apply by endorsement if they have been licensed in another jurisdiction for more than five years. They need to submit copy of diploma, original National Board Scorecard, proof of passing a state or regional examination, certificate of completing certain career-specific trainings, and certification form(s) from each jurisdiction(s) they were licensed in.
- Once an application is submitted, licenses are typically approved in 30 days.

#### *Massage Therapy*

- California does not have massage therapy licensure. Instead, the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC) is a private, non-profit organization that issues massage therapy certifications.
- CAMTC does not offer military spouses accommodations to transfer their licenses.
- Spouses whose partners are on Active Duty will not need to apply as a new applicant if their certifications have lapsed over six months.
- The CAMTC will waive late fees for spouses who need to renew their licenses if their partners are on Active Duty.
- Once an application is submitted, certificates are issued in about three months.

#### *Mental Health Counseling*

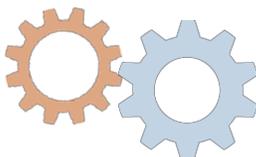
- The board expedites the application process for military spouses. Spouses must complete the “Military Spouse/Domestic Partner Expedite Request” form to get expedited processing.
- All out-of-state applicants need to meet the education requirements, gain 3,000 hours of supervised experience over a minimum two-year period, and pass the California Law and Ethics examinations. They may use their out-of-state experience for a maximum of 1,200 hours.
- It takes four to six weeks to process an application once it is submitted.

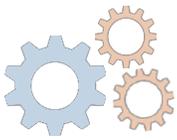
#### *Occupational Therapy*

- Spouses can be granted a 60-day unrestricted temporary license when they meet the board’s requirements while their full license application is under review.
- The board’s requirements include official transcript, verification from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), and work experience verification.
- The board expedites military spouses’ applications by processing the applications in two weeks instead of approximately 30 days.

#### *Real Estate Commission*

- Military spouses can have their application expedited if they hold a current real estate license in another jurisdiction.
- To obtain salesperson licenses, all applicants must complete three relevant college-level courses and apply for the salesperson examination.
- Staff reported that the average processing time cannot be estimated because it is determined on an individual basis.





# Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

## Recommendations

### Future efforts could:

- Advocate to modify AB 186 and AB 1904 to read that occupational boards shall allow licensure by endorsement for spouses.
- Encourage training of occupational board staff to improve their understanding and application of AB 186

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

Lynne M. Borden, Ph.D.

*Department of Family Social Science*

The University of Minnesota

lborden@umn.edu



Developed in collaboration with the Department of Defense's Office of Family Policy, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture under The University of Minnesota Award No. 2016-48788-25895.

