

FLORIDA

Summary of Legislation

Enacted in 2011, Senate Bill 1228, only applies to health care practitioners. SB 1228 states that health care practitioner licensing boards may issue a temporary professional license to the spouse of an Active Duty Service member. In order to be granted a temporary license, military spouses must hold a valid license issued by another jurisdiction. Temporary licenses expire in 12 months and cannot be renewed.

House Bill 941, enacted in 2016, only applies to health care practitioners. HB 941 states that military spouses who are a health care practitioner (excluding dentists) in another jurisdiction can be licensed by endorsement given that their training or experience is substantially equivalent to the requirements in Florida and that they have actively practiced the profession for three years preceding the application.

Location of Bills:

Bill 1228 - <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2011/1228>

Bill 941 - <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/0941>

Results from Data Collection

General Findings

- Occupational board staff were aware of legislation that supports licensure portability for military spouses.
- All boards have unique processes providing temporary licenses to spouses, and the period of time the temporary licenses are valid varies by board.
- The Florida Department of Health allows spouses to apply for licensure through the Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response (VALOR), which offers temporary licensure, expedited processing, and fee waivers for spouses.
- No board had information about the number of spouses who transferred their licenses in the last year.

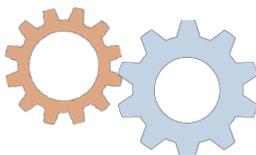
Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Spouses can be issued temporary licenses to practice cosmetology. They just need to provide proof that they are married to an Active Duty Service member who is assigned to a duty station in Florida and hold valid licenses in another jurisdiction. The temporary licenses are valid for six months and cannot be renewed.

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 type="radio"/>	Expedited application process
<input type="radio"/> Not addressed in legislation <input checked="" type="radio"/> Addressed in legislation	





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- The board also waives application fees for spouses of Active Duty Service members and Veterans.
- Spouses who hold a valid cosmetology license in another jurisdiction with equal or higher requirements may also apply for licensure by endorsement. They must have 1,200 school hours and pass a licensing examination.
- It takes seven to ten days to get a license application processed once submitted.

Dental Hygiene

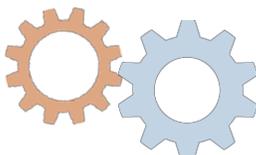
- The board does not allow licensure by endorsement or reciprocity.
- Once they submit their applications, spouses can be granted temporary licenses while they are waiting for decisions on a full application.
- To get the temporary license, spouses need to prove that they are married to an Active Duty Service member who is assigned to a duty station in Florida and that they are currently licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction.
- Temporary licenses are valid for 12 months and are non-renewable.
- Spouses' applications are expedited and can be processed in less than one day.

Massage Therapy

- Spouses can submit an application and then be granted temporary licenses while they are waiting for the decision on a full application. To obtain the temporary license, spouses need to prove being married to an Active Duty Service members who is stationed in Florida; spouses also need to hold a valid license from another jurisdiction.
- Temporary licenses are valid for 12 months and are non-renewable.
- The application fee is waived for spouses of Service members or Veterans who have been honorably discharged in the past 60 months.
- The licensure process is expedited for spouses, but processing time cannot be determined because it varies individually.

Mental Health Counseling

- The board treats military spouses differently by expediting their application process and waiving their application fees.
- The board also offers spouses temporary licenses. The application requirements include proof of marriage to an Active Duty Service member who is assigned to Florida and proof of a current and valid counseling license in another jurisdiction.
- The temporary licenses are valid for 12 months and are non-renewable.
- Staff indicated that the average processing time cannot be determined because it varies individually





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Occupational Therapy

- Military spouses' applications are expedited, and their application fees are waived.
- To be licensed by endorsement, spouses must complete required exams and hold current certification with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).
- Spouses may be issued a temporary license while they wait to take the national exam. The temporary license will expire when they take the exam and cannot be renewed.
- Once the completed application is submitted, the average processing time is 24 hours.

Real Estate Commission

- Spouses are eligible for temporary real estate licenses in Florida if they are married to an Active Duty Service member who is assigned to a duty station in Florida and they hold a valid license in another jurisdiction.
- Temporary licenses are valid for six months and cannot be renewed.
- The board has reciprocity with seven other states (Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, and Nebraska) and spouses licensed in those states who hold licenses are exempt from taking pre-license education. However, spouses must take the 40-question Florida law section of the state exam.
- It takes seven to ten days to get a license application processed once an application is submitted.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate to broaden the scopes of SB 1228 and HB 941 so that all occupations are covered under the bills.
- Encourage broader dissemination of the contents of SB 1228 and HB 941 to military families who are going to have a permanent change of station (PCS) to Florida.

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