



Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

IOWA

Summary of Legislation

There is currently no legislation regarding license portability for military spouses in the state of Iowa.* There have been no previous bills proposed or rejected and there are no pending bills regarding license portability for military spouses.**

Location of Bills:

Cosmetology - <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ACO/chapter/645.60.pdf>

Dental - <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/agency/08-24-2011.650.pdf>

Massage Therapy - <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/26/MT/Massage%20Therapist%202017.pdf>

Occupational Therapy - <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode/sections?codeChapter=148B>

Mental Health Counselors - <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode/sections?codeChapter=154D>

Real Estate Commission - <https://plb.iowa.gov/real-estate-sales-brokers/real-estate-license-law-and-rules>

Legislation Meets Best Practices Guidelines for Military Spouse Licensure Portability by:

<input type="radio"/>	Licensure by endorsement
<input 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

Results from Data Collection

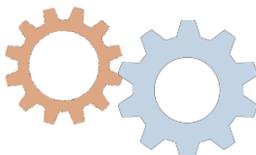
General Findings

- The current transfer of license process is similar for all new residents to Iowa.
- Occupational board staff were unaware of any upcoming changes to legislation.
- Some boards provide priority processing if an applicant identifies as a military spouse.
- Little information was available regarding how many military spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year, as most occupational boards do not track this information.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Spouses must have graduated from an accredited cosmetology program and passed the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC) exam. The board reported that Iowa requires more training hours than other states, which may be an issue when determining “substantially equivalent” credentials. If the board determines a spouse does not meet Iowa requirements, the applicant will be informed as to how they can complete the requirements.
- If licensed in another state for at least 12 of the last 24 months, a license verification letter from the previous state’s licensing board is required.
- Spouses may receive priority processing of their application, and the average length of time to process an application is about a month.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Dental Hygiene

- The board reported that they extend the occupational licensing benefits of the Home Base Iowa Act to military spouses (although the act is specifically for Veterans) by offering priority processing and reciprocity to spouses who indicate their military status on their application.
- Spouses must have graduated from an accredited dental school, passed the National Dental Hygiene Examination, provided proof of a current and valid license from another state, practiced at least three years, completed a criminal background check, and paid the application fee to transfer their licenses.
- Completed applications are typically processed within four to six weeks.
- About two to three military spouses have transferred their license within the last year because of permanent change of station (PCS).

Massage Therapy

- Military spouses must complete an application and pay the application fee, send official transcripts with degree conferred, have passed one of the national exams, and provide verification of licensure if licensed in another state.
- Typical processing time for a completed application is one week. If an application needs to be reviewed by the board, this process can take up to three months.

Mental Health Counseling

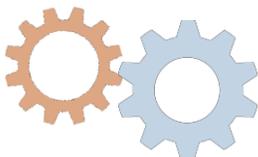
- To be eligible for licensure by endorsement, spouses must have been licensed for at least five years and provide official transcripts, certification of supervision, verification of license(s) in good standing from all jurisdictions in which they have been licensed, and proof of passing the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE).
- Completed applications are typically processed within 15 business days.

Occupational Therapy

- Spouses must provide official transcripts, license verification from all states in which they have been previously licensed, and passing scores on the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.
- Spouses must also provide one of the following: proof of passing the NBCOT within the previous year, proof of completing 30 hours of Iowa-approved continuing education requirements, or proof of a minimum of 2,080 hours of work history in the previous two years.
- Completed applications are typically processed within five to ten business days.

Real Estate Commission

- Spouses may qualify for licensure by reciprocity if they have a license from Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, or North Dakota.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- Spouses who qualify for licensure by reciprocity must complete an application, pay the licensing fee, provide proof of insurance through the state of Iowa, complete a criminal background check, and complete a license history with a letter of good standing from each previous licensing board.
- Spouses who do not qualify for licensure by reciprocity must complete a 60-hour pre-licensing course and three additional 12-hour courses (Buying Practices, Listing Practices, and Developing Professionalism and Ethical Practices). Spouses must also pass the state and national exams and pass a criminal background check.
- Although the application itself only takes about three to five business days to process, the criminal background check can take a minimum of three to four weeks.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Recommend legislation for license portability for military spouses within the state of Iowa.
- Advocate for procedures that provide support for expedited processes for military spouses' licenses.

** The 2014 Iowa Acts Chapter 1116, Section 36 required occupational boards to report their recommendations on including military spouses in the provisions of Section 34. As a result, Occupational Therapy and Massage Therapy Boards recommended inclusion. However, no change was made to the policy.*

*** There is a provision in the administrative code that provides a special temporary license to military spouse teachers that is valid for three years (see 282 - 13.7(3) in the Iowa Administrative Code).*

For additional information, please contact:

Lynne M. Borden, Ph.D.
Department of Family Social Science
The University of Minnesota
lmborden@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.

