



MASSACHUSETTS

Summary of Legislation

The “Veterans’ Access, Livelihood, Opportunity and Resources Act (VALOR Act)” was enacted in 2013. This act allows boards to expedite the licensing process for spouses of an Active Duty Service member or Veteran if, due to a military transfer, the spouse left employment to accompany a Service member spouse relocated to Massachusetts. The VALOR Act II was signed into law in 2014, and allows licensing boards to waive application fees for military spouses. Spouses must complete an affidavit form and submit it with their application materials.

Location of Bills:

VALOR Act - <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter108>

VALOR Act II - <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2014/Chapter62>

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

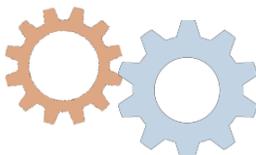
General Findings

- The Boards of Massage Therapy, Dental Hygiene, Mental Health Counselors, and Occupational Therapy have expedited procedures for military spouses.
- The Boards of Cosmetology, Dental Hygiene, Occupational Therapy, and the Real Estate Commission waive the initial licensing fee.
- Legislation states that for a spouse to be eligible for an expedited license they had to have left employment. Most boards followed this requirement while others allowed spouses who did not leave employment to apply under the expedited procedures as long as they had a current license in another state.
- Staff at occupational licensing boards were unaware of any changes to policy or new legislation about military spouse license portability.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Spouse applications are given priority processing and the application fee is waived when they present proof of military status and submit a signed affidavit.
- Spouses are required to take a written and practical exam in the state of Massachusetts and can get a temporary license while they wait to take the exams.
- Once the board receives an application, it takes a couple of weeks to review and schedule the exams. Licenses are issued within a couple days after the applicant passes the practical and written exams.
- The board reported that 10 spouses have transferred their licenses within the last year.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Dental Hygiene

- Spouse applications are given priority processing and the application fee is waived when they present proof of military status and submit a signed affidavit; both are still offered even if a spouse did not leave current employment.
- Spouses must have graduated from an accredited dental program, passed the National Dental Hygiene Examination and clinical competency exam, practiced for at least one year, and submitted letters of good standing from each state in which they previously held a license. They must also hold current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification.
- Completed applications are typically processed within one week.
- The board reported that about 12 spouses have transferred their licenses within the last year.

Massage Therapy

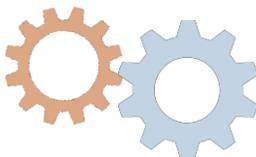
- Spouses must submit the military spouse affidavit form with proof of military status and marriage with their initial application for licensure.
- Spouses must have graduated from an accredited program, passed the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx), and submitted license verification.
- Spouse applications are expedited and typically processed within two to three weeks.

Mental Health Counseling

- Spouses must complete the military spouse affidavit and provide required proof of military affiliation and marriage.
- Spouses who have a license in good standing in another state and have been actively practicing for at least three years can apply for a reciprocal license if they graduated from an accredited program (must have completed a minimum of 60 credit hours) and submit license verification(s) and passing National Clinical Mental Health Counseling *Exam* (NCMHCE) scores.
- Applications are expedited for military spouses and are typically processed within two months, but spouses can begin the application process prior to moving to Massachusetts.

Occupational Therapy

- This board does not require a spouse to have left employment to apply via military status if they have a current license in another state. The application fee is waived for military spouses with a signed affidavit and proof of military status.
- Spouses must have graduated from an accredited program, passed the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam, and provided license verification.
- Applications are expedited for military spouses, and completed applications are typically processed within three weeks.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Real Estate Commission

- Spouses licensed in another jurisdiction must provide a certified record of their license history and license verification. Spouses with a current license may have the pre-licensing course requirements waived but must take a jurisprudence exam.
- Once all course and exam requirements are complete, applications can be processed within a couple days, and application fees are waived for military spouses.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Provide training for occupational licensing boards regarding what legislative requirements spouses must meet to qualify for an expedited or temporary license.
- Continue to support legislation that encourages boards to offer reduced or waived initial licensing fees.

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