



## MISSISSIPPI

### Summary of Legislation

Senate Bill 2419, effective in 2013, allows occupational licensing boards to issue licenses to military spouses with a current equivalent license in good standing. Spouses must complete an application and pay the licensing fee, demonstrate competency through continuing education or recent experience (a minimum of two years of experience within the last five years), provide license verification, and pass a criminal background check (if required). Regulation Part 2601, Chapter 7 (Rule 7.1), "Expedited Licensure," was adopted July 10, 2014, and allows medical licensing boards to expedite military spouse applications and issue temporary licenses; this bill only encompasses dental hygiene.

#### 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

Not addressed in legislation  
 Addressed in legislation

#### Location of Bills:

Rule 7.1 - <http://sos.ms.gov/ACProposed/00020631b.pdf>

Senate Bill 2419 - <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2013/html/SB/2400-499/SB2419PS.htm>

### Results from Data Collection

#### General Findings

- The application process is similar for all applicants moving to the state of Mississippi.
- Only the Board of Dentistry issues temporary licenses to military spouses.
- Occupational board staff were unaware of any upcoming changes to legislation.
- Little information was available about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.

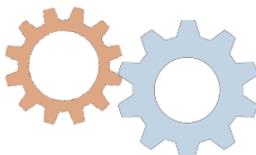
#### Findings Specific to Each Board

##### Cosmetology

- Spouses must first provide proof of training and certification of their license record to complete an eligibility interview (held weekly) prior to beginning the application process.
- Spouses must have completed at least 1,500 training hours, passed a theory and practical exam, and provided license verification(s).
- Completed applications are typically processed within one week.

##### Dental Hygiene

- Military spouses can be issued a temporary license while meeting licensing requirements and applying for a permanent license. This non-renewable license is valid for one year.





## Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

### Results from Data Collection (continued)

- Spouses with five years of experience must have graduated from an accredited program, passed the National Dental Hygiene Examination, passed a state or regional clinical exam, and provided license verification(s). In addition, spouses will need to pass a jurisprudence exam and interview with the board.
- Completed temporary license applications must be reviewed by the board and are typically processed within 30 days.

#### *Massage Therapy*

- Spouses with experience for at least two of the preceding five years must provide passing Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) or the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) scores, proof of a high school education, and current first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification. Spouses may also need to provide proof of marriage to an Active Duty Service member.
- Completed applications must be approved by the board and can take up to 45 days to be processed.

#### *Mental Health Counseling*

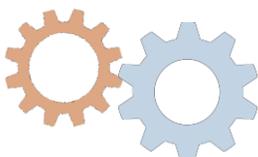
- Spouses must submit supervision verification, official transcripts, license verification, and passing scores on either the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination for Licensure or Certification (NCMHCE). Spouses will also need to complete a criminal background check.
- The board may honor licensing criteria met in another state if requirements are “substantially equivalent” to those in Mississippi. This is determined on an individual basis by the board.
- Staff at the board reported that the application processing time is unknown.
- Fewer than five military spouses have applied for licensure within the last year.

#### *Occupational Therapy*

- The application process is similar for all applicants; spouses must provide verification of education and training, passing National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam scores, and license verification(s).
- Completed applications are typically processed within one to three business days.

#### *Real Estate Commission*

- Spouses licensed in another state who provide license verification may be exempt from taking the national and state portions of the salesperson exam if the commission determines that the examination taken in the previous state is equivalent to Mississippi’s real estate exam.
- Spouse applications are expedited, and are typically processed within three to five business days.





## Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

### Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate for staff training since many boards were unaware of any legislation for military spouses while others were able to cite specific regulations.
- Encourage licensing boards to provide military spouses with temporary licenses for boards who require processing time greater than two weeks.

**For additional information, please contact:**

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