

NEBRASKA

Summary of Legislation

Legislative Bill 88, “Uniform Credentialing Act,” was passed in 2017. The provisions in this bill do not include licensing pertaining to the Real Estate Commission. The bill indicates that occupational boards shall issue temporary licenses if spouses meet licensing criteria. The temporary license is valid for six months and is nonrenewable.

Location of Bill:

Legislative Bill 88 - http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=31054

Results from Data Collection

General Findings

- All staff at the boards were aware of the new state legislation. To benefit from the forthcoming bill, spouses must have moved to Nebraska due to a permanent change of station (PCS).
- No information was available about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.
- No board had a specific person who served as a point of contact to help military spouses with the application process.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Spouses must have graduated and passed a licensing exam in another jurisdiction. If a licensing exam was not required in their previous jurisdiction, they must take the licensing exam in Nebraska.
- Spouses must have earned at least 2,100 hours in their cosmetology program or submit proof of work experience for the previous five years. Hours earned after training can be applied to the total minimum hours needed to transfer a license to Nebraska.
- Once the application has been submitted, the process to issue a cosmetology license can take several weeks.

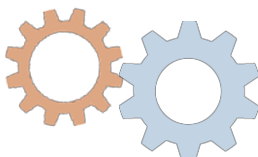
Dental Hygiene

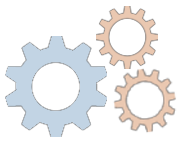
- Spouses can be licensed by reciprocity if they were licensed in another jurisdiction and worked for at least three years, with at least one year of work having occurred in the last three consecutive years.
- Spouses must take a Nebraska jurisprudence exam, and the process to transfer their license can take an average of 30 days.

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

<input 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





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Massage Therapy

- Spouses must have passed the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) or be board certified. In addition, they must have 1,000 combined hours from school, professional practice, or continuing education credits (one year of school or work as a massage therapist equals 100 hours).
- Spouses must document previous education and work experience; the board calls to verify information at their discretion.
- The process to transfer a massage therapy license can take about a week after the application is submitted.

Mental Health Counseling

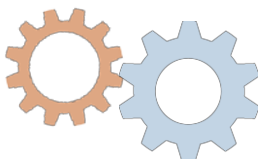
- The requirements to transfer a license are primarily related to obtaining substantially equivalent post-graduation supervision hours. Substantially equivalent hours is defined as “something close” to Nebraska’s requirements. For example, Nebraska requires 3,000 hours of supervised experience. A spouse with substantially equivalent experience might have 2,800 hours.
- The process to transfer a counseling license can take up to several weeks after the application is submitted.

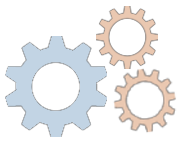
Occupational Therapy

- If spouses have been in practice in the last three years, they can transfer their license if they submit proof of an occupational therapy degree, supervised hours, and licensure from a previous jurisdiction.
- If they are not currently in practice, they must also submit proof of 50 continuing education credits obtained in the last three years.
- The process to transfer an occupational therapy license can take several weeks once all the documentation is submitted.

Real Estate Commission

- To transfer their license, spouses must take the License Law Course, a three-hour course from an approved site in Nebraska.
- Spouses must also complete a certificate of license history that is no more than 30 days old when they apply.
- The process takes two to three months after the application is submitted.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate for a separate bill to be introduced that addresses portability of real estate licensure for military spouses.
- Encourage modifications to the upcoming bill to allow for temporary licenses to expire in 12 months instead of six months to provide more time to meet necessary requirements for permanent licensure.

For additional information, please contact:

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



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