



NEW MEXICO

Summary of Legislation

Enacted in 2013, House Bill 180 applies to spouses of Active Duty and Reserve Service members as well as spouses of Veterans who have separated from military service within the preceding two years. The bill indicates that occupational boards shall expedite issuance of licenses as soon as all required information for the application has been verified. Licenses that are issued under this bill are not intended to be temporary.

Location of Bill:

House Bill 180 - <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/13%20Regular/final/HB0180.pdf>

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

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

- Staff at all occupational boards were aware of state legislation related to military spouse licensure portability.
- The Cosmetology board has policies that expedite military spouses’ applications.
- Staff at the Massage Therapy board knew of one or two military spouses who applied to transfer their licenses in the allied health occupations in the past year. None of the other boards had any information 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.

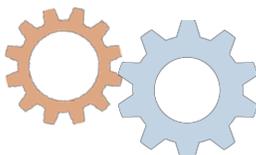
Findings Specific to Each Board

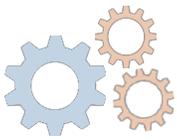
Cosmetology

- To transfer a license, spouses must have 1,600 training hours; however, they may apply work history as a substitute for training hours as six months of employment is equivalent to 150 hours of training. They must also submit verification of education and a previous license and pass the New Mexico jurisprudence exam.
- Once spouses begin the application process, they are issued a provisional license so they may obtain employment while they wait for their verification materials.

Dental Hygiene

- Spouses’ applications are expedited by allowing them to get their initial license without a criminal background check. They must indicate on the application that they are a spouse of an Active Duty Service member to be exempt from the initial criminal background check.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- To transfer their licenses, spouses must submit a verification of previous license, proof of 15 continuing education units (CEUs) from the last 12 months, and pass the New Mexico jurisprudence exam.
- Once their application is approved, licenses are issued within three business days.

Massage Therapy

- Once spouses submit their application (including verification of previous license) and pass the New Mexico jurisprudence exam, they are issued a permanent license that is valid for up to two years. The license is usually issued one to two weeks after all required materials are submitted.
- To renew their license, spouses must submit all supporting materials (e.g., verification of education) that were not presented with their initial application.

Mental Health Counseling

- Military spouses must have an active license for at least five years and submit verification of licensure from another jurisdiction.
- Once all application materials are submitted, licenses are issued in 10-15 business days.

Occupational Therapy

- Spouses must submit verification of education requirements and passing scores on the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) and New Mexico jurisprudence exams.
- Once submitted, spouses' applications are expedited, and once approved, a permanent license is issued the same day.

Real Estate Commission

- Military spouses who transfer their real estate license from Louisiana, Massachusetts, or Georgia are eligible for reciprocity.
- For military spouses transferring from states without reciprocity, they are eligible for a waiver of up to 60 of the 90 required education credits; the remaining 30 credits are earned by passing the New Mexico jurisprudence exam.
- Spouses must identify a real estate broker they plan to work with before submitting their application, and completed applications are processed in 10-14 business days.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Urge occupational boards to allow the issuance of temporary licenses for military spouses while their application materials are being gathered to submit to occupational board.
- Encourage occupational boards to include questions about military spouse status on applications to better identify applicants who are eligible for licensure by endorsement.



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