

NORTH CAROLINA

Summary of Legislation

Enacted in 2011, House Bill 799 indicates that occupational boards shall issue a license to military spouses if the spouse has an active license and the board determines that pre-licensure requirements and post-licensure experience are similar to those in the previous jurisdiction. In addition, HB 799 requires occupational boards to publish a document that contains information related to requirements and experiences necessary to transfer occupational licenses. Senate Bill 8 expands on HB 799 by requiring boards to issue temporary licenses to spouses while they are satisfying requirements (e.g., continuing education requirements) for their licenses. Of note, SB 8 became effective in 2017.

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 |
| <input type="radio"/> Not addressed in legislation <input checked="" type="radio"/> Addressed in legislation | |

Location of Bills:

House Bill 799 - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2011&BillID=H799>

Senate Bill 8 - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2017&BillID=S8>

Results from Data Collection

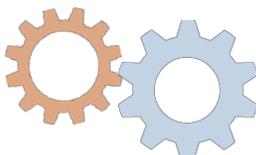
General Findings

- The Dental Hygiene board offers a temporary license for spouses to begin working while their application is processed.
- The Cosmetology, Dental Hygiene, and Massage Therapy boards had information about how many spouses transferred their licenses in the past year, but no other boards had any information.
- The Dental Hygiene board has a staff member who serves as a point of contact to help military spouses with the application process; no other board has a specific person who serves as a point of contact.
- Only staff at the Dental Hygiene, Massage Therapy, and Cosmetology boards were aware of the state legislation related to military spouses' license portability.
- No representative responded to requests for information from the Mental Health Counseling board.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Spouses are able to transfer their licenses via endorsement, which requires that they complete the application and submit a copy of their previous license(s).





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- Spouses from Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia must also submit a verification form from the previous licensing board in addition to their application and copy of their previous license.
- Once applications are submitted, spouses are issued a license in one to two business days. Staff reported one military spouse applicant in the last year.

Dental Hygiene

- Spouses are eligible to transfer their license if they have an active license (and submit verification) and have been in practice for at least 1,500 hours per year during two of the last five years. If they do not meet those requirements, they may have to take the national and/or North Carolina state exam.
- Once the application is submitted, licenses are issued in about one month. This board has received about six applications to transfer licenses from military spouses in the past year.
- The board offers application packets that contain copies of the state legislation describing what accommodations are available to military spouses who transfer their licenses to North Carolina.

Massage Therapy

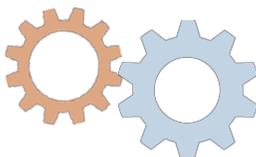
- To transfer licenses, spouses submit school transcripts, pass a national exam (e.g., Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination [MBLEX]) and a North Carolina jurisprudence exam, provide verification of previous license, and submit documentation of English proficiency.
- Once the application is submitted, licenses are usually issued within 60 days.

Mental Health Counseling

- No representative from this board replied to communications seeking additional information about the process to transfer licenses for military spouses.
- Based on the website, there is no special process nor was there a reference to the state legislation that addresses transfer of licenses for military spouses.
- Military spouses are eligible for license transfer via endorsement if they meet the following requirements: worked full-time for at least five years or part-time for at least eight years within the last 10 years; obtained a minimum of 2,500 hours of direct service; hold an active license that does not require supervision for a minimum of two years; pass the North Carolina jurisprudence exam; and submit verification of previous license, education, and passing scores from a national exam.

Occupational Therapy

- Spouses must submit verification of their license from a previous state and scores from the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam and the North Carolina jurisprudence exam.
- Once the application is submitted, licenses are usually issued in one to two weeks.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Real Estate Commission

- Spouses are eligible to transfer their licenses from another state if they have had an active license within the past three years (must submit verification) and take the North Carolina jurisprudence exam.
- Once the application is submitted, licenses are issued in seven to ten business days.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate for legislation that includes an expedited process of reviewing and approving military spouses' licenses.
- Collaborate with occupational boards to develop a plan to broadly disseminate accommodations for military spouses based on SB 8.

For additional information, please contact:

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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.

