

# Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

## OHIO

### Summary of Legislation

House Bill 490 was passed in 2012, and House Bill 75 was proposed in 2017 and is currently under review. The proposed bill expands the definition of a military member from Active Duty to include National Guard and Reserve Service Members. According to both bills, military spouses are eligible to transfer their licenses via a temporary or provisional license. Under HB 75, they can obtain a temporary license via endorsement, and the temporary license expires in 12 months.

#### Location of Bills:

*House Bill 490* - [http://archives.legislature.state.oh.us/BillText129/129\\_HB\\_490\\_EN\\_N.pdf](http://archives.legislature.state.oh.us/BillText129/129_HB_490_EN_N.pdf)

*House Bill 75* - <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-75>

### 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

### Results from Data Collection

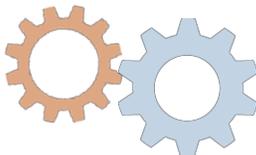
#### General Findings

- Only the staff at the Dental and Cosmetology boards were aware of any legislation related to portability of military spouses’ licenses.
- The Cosmetology board was the only board that had a specific person who served as a point of contact to help military spouses with the application process.
- Only the Massage Therapy board offered a temporary license while the application for a permanent license is being processed.
- Although not required by the state legislation, the board that regulates mental health counselors also expedites applications of spouses of Veterans.
- Websites for the Occupational Therapy board, Cosmetology board, and Mental Health Counseling board had detailed information for military spouses related to their eligibility and benefits regarding license portability.
- In the past year, the Cosmetology board has had about 10 applicants who were military spouses, while the Occupational board has had “about four or five” military spouses. No other boards had information about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses.

#### Findings Specific to Each Board

##### *Cosmetology*

- Spouses do not have to pay application fees, and there is a special form on the Ohio Cosmetology board website that identifies applicants as military spouses.





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### Results from Data Collection (continued)

- To transfer their licenses, spouses must submit their marriage certificate and a copy of the orders assigning the Service member to a duty station in Ohio in addition to a copy of their license and verification of their license from the previous jurisdiction.
- Licenses are usually issued one to two weeks after the application is submitted.

#### *Dental Hygiene*

- Spouses are able to transfer their licenses via reciprocity if they have an active license for at least five years. If they have taken the regional board exam, they must submit those scores. If they have not taken the regional board exam, they must submit verification of their license from another jurisdiction.
- Once a complete application has been submitted, licenses are usually issued within three weeks.

#### *Massage Therapy*

- Spouses are eligible to transfer their license if they have had an active license for at least five years, and they must submit their proof of license from another jurisdiction along with their application.
- Once a complete application has been submitted, licenses are usually issued in eight weeks

#### *Mental Health Counseling*

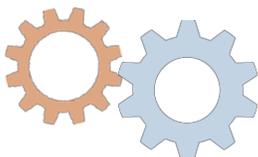
- There are specific instructions for military spouses on the website, which include informing spouses that they must indicate their status on their application.
- Spouses are able to transfer their licenses via endorsement if they have been licensed for at least five years. In addition, spouses must also submit state and national exam scores and verification of license from their previous jurisdiction.
- Once military spouses' applications are completed and submitted, a license is issued the same day. Board staff indicated there is an option to issue a temporary license if spouses are waiting an extended period of time for their application materials.

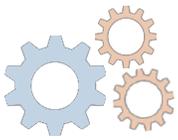
#### *Occupational Therapy*

- To transfer their licenses, spouses must submit their marriage certificate, a copy of the orders assigning the Service member to a duty station in Ohio, and verification of license in a previous jurisdiction.
- Spouses are issued a temporary license that is valid for six months and is nonrenewable.
- Once the completed application is received, licenses are issued in one to two weeks. If their license is issued within six months of their temporary license, the application fee is waived.

#### *Real Estate Commission*

- To transfer their licenses, spouses must take four classes related to Ohio laws and regulations; the requirement to take the national exam is waived if they are already licensed.
- Once they submit their completed application, spouses receive their license in three to five business days.





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## Recommendations

### Future efforts could:

- Collaborate with state legislators to amend HB 75 to recommend that boards implement an expedited process for military spouses' license transfers.
- Coordinate efforts with directors of occupational boards to widely disseminate the content of HB 75 and how to incorporate it in their current policies.

### **For additional information, please contact:**

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