

OKLAHOMA

Summary of Legislation

Enacted in 2012, Senate Bill 1863, “Post-Military Service Occupation, Education and Credentialing Act,” states that every agency, board, or commission shall have procedures that expedite endorsement of licenses for military spouses who move to Oklahoma with an Active Duty Service member or are residents of Oklahoma six months prior to Active Duty assignment. In order to be eligible to transfer their licenses, spouses must have left employment in another state before moving to Oklahoma. In addition, the bill indicates boards should “develop a method” to issue temporary licenses for spouses while they are completing additional requirements or waiting for approval.

Location of Bill:

Senate Bill 1863 - <https://www.legiscan.com/OK/bill/SB1863/2012>

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	Expedited application process

Not addressed in legislation
 Addressed in legislation

Results from Data Collection

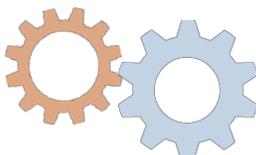
General Findings

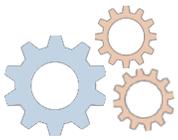
- None of the staff at any of the boards were aware of any legislation related to portability of military spouses’ licenses.
- None of the boards had a specific person who served as a point of contact to help military spouses with the application process.
- Only the Occupational Therapy board offers a temporary license while the application for a permanent license is being processed.
- The Cosmetology and Massage Therapy boards offer reduced application fees for military spouses.
- The Cosmetology and Massage Therapy boards are housed within the same licensing board and have identical processes.
- In the past year, the Cosmetology and Massage Therapy boards have had about five applicants who were military spouses. No other boards had information about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses.
- No representative responded to requests for information from the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Military spouses are eligible to transfer their license by reciprocity. They must submit verification of their license from a previous jurisdiction and pass the jurisprudence exam.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- If spouses are authorized to practice in a state that does not issue licenses, spouses must submit proof of at least 1,500 study or credit hours.
- Once spouses submit a completed application, their licenses are issued within one business day.

Dental Hygiene

- To transfer licenses via endorsement, spouses must have been in practice for at least two years before submitting their application. There is no expedited process for license transfer.
- Spouses' applications must include school transcripts, national or regional exam scores, verification of license from a previous jurisdiction, and three letters of recommendation.
- All applications must be approved by the Dentistry board, which meets quarterly. Therefore, spouses may have to wait up to 90 days for a license to be issued.

Massage Therapy

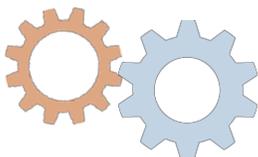
- Military spouses are eligible to transfer their license by reciprocity. They must submit verification of their license from a previous jurisdiction and pass the jurisprudence exam. If spouses are authorized to practice in a state that does not issue licenses, spouses must submit proof of at least 1,500 study or credit hours.
- Once spouses submit a completed application, their licenses are issued within one business day.

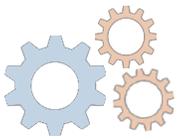
Mental Health Counseling

- 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.
- Non-resident military spouses are eligible for licensure by endorsement if they have been licensed for five or more years; submit three letters of recommendation, school transcripts, and verification of their license from a previous state; and undergo a background check.
- Non-resident spouses who have been licensed for less than five years must submit the above materials as well as proof that they passed the National Counselor Examination (NCE).

Occupational Therapy

- Military spouses are not eligible for expedited transfer of their licenses. They are eligible to practice with their previous license for no more than three months if they are certified by the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) or if they can submit verification that the requirements for licensure in the previous jurisdiction equal or surpass Oklahoma's requirements.
- To transfer their licenses, spouses must submit verification of their license from another jurisdiction and complete an application.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- All applications must be approved by the Occupational Therapy board, which meets quarterly. As spouses wait for approval, they may be issued a temporary license if they submit a letter from their employer indicating they have secured employment in Oklahoma.
- Because the board must approve all applications and board members meet quarterly, spouses might wait up to 90 days before their licenses are issued.

Real Estate Commission

- Military spouses are not eligible for reciprocity or expedited transfer of their licenses.
- To be eligible to transfer their licenses, spouses must complete three Oklahoma real estate courses.
- Due in part to the criminal background check and the Oklahoma real estate courses, licenses are usually issued in an average of 60 days.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate for continued training for occupational board staff about the legislation for military spouse licensure portability and how to integrate accommodations for spouses into their applications processes.
- Encourage occupational boards to expedite military spouses' license applications by asking about military spouse status on the application and prioritizing those applications.

For additional information, please contact:

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