

# PENNSYLVANIA

## Summary of Legislation

There is currently no military spouse licensure portability legislation in Pennsylvania. In 2015, Bills 796, 964, and 1675, all entitled the “Military Spouse License Portability Act,” were introduced to ease portability of licensure for military spouses through endorsement and temporary licensing processes; however, none of these bills were passed. Each occupational board currently has separate legislation. Of the six occupational boards examined, all allowed for licensure by endorsement or reciprocity, half allowed for temporary licensure, and none had processes for expediting licensure.

### Location of Bills:

*Cosmetology* - <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter7/s7.31.html>

*Dental Hygiene* - <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter33/s33.107.html>

*Massage Therapy* - <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter20/chap20toc.html>

*Mental Health Counseling* - <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter49/s49.15.html>

*Occupational Therapy* - <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter42/s42.12.html>

*Real Estate Commission* - <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter35/s35.255.html>

## Results from Data Collection

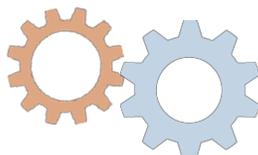
### General Findings

- Current process to transfer licenses is similar for all new residents to Pennsylvania.
- Each board has separate legislation regarding licensure by endorsement, and processes vary across boards.
- Temporary licenses are available for military spouses applying for licensure by endorsement in cosmetology, dental hygiene, and occupational therapy.
- No information was available from any board about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.

### Findings Specific to Each Board

#### *Cosmetology*

- Spouses who have a current license in another state with equivalent requirements (e.g., hours of schooling, state board theory and procedural exams) and who have worked for two or more years in a licensed salon are eligible for licensure by reciprocity.
- A one-time temporary license valid for nine months can be obtained while spouses complete state requirements for permanent licensure.
- The process to transfer a cosmetology license through reciprocity takes up to four weeks.



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

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

## Results from Data Collection (continued)

### *Dental Hygiene*

- For licensure by endorsement, spouses must have a license in another state that has equivalent requirements and that also accepts Pennsylvania licenses for endorsement.
- Spouses completing state requirements for licensure can obtain one 30-day temporary volunteer license or three ten-day temporary volunteer licenses per year.
- The process to transfer a dental hygiene license takes 15-25 business days.

### *Massage Therapy*

- Licensure by endorsement can be obtained if spouses' previous state of licensure has similar licensing requirements, including at least 600 hours of massage education, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, and successful completion of either the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) or the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCETM/NCETMB).
- Temporary licenses are only issued to recent graduates and are not available for spouses completing state requirements in order to transfer their license.
- The process to transfer a massage therapy license takes four to six weeks.

### *Mental Health Counseling*

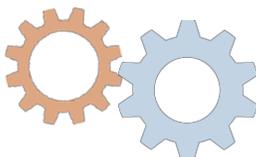
- For licensure by endorsement, spouses must hold a current license in another state and have worked as a counselor for at least five of the past seven years.
- The board considers whether a spouse meets requirements for licensure by endorsement based on graduate coursework, degrees, hours of education, and supervised experience.
- The process to transfer a counseling license takes approximately 25 business days.

### *Occupational Therapy*

- For licensure by endorsement, spouses must show that the requirements for their license in another state were equivalent, at the time of licensure, to Pennsylvania's current requirements.
- Spouses applying for licensure by endorsement can obtain a six-month temporary license. Temporary licensees can only provide services when working with an occupational therapist who is fully licensed in Pennsylvania.
- The process to transfer an occupational therapy license takes four to six weeks.

### *Real Estate Commission*

- Licensure by reciprocity is currently only available for spouses from seven states (Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, West Virginia). All other spouses must apply for licensure by examination.



## Recommendations

### Future efforts could:

- Advocate for a new bill, similar to those introduced in 2015, to allow military spouses in all occupations and from all states to obtain licensure by endorsement and temporary licensure.
- 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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