



RHODE ISLAND

Summary of Legislation

Senate Bill 629 and House Bill 5712 were passed in 2013 and regulate the licensure of military spouses in Rhode Island. These bills require occupational boards to expedite the licensing process for military spouses; however, how the process is expedited is determined by each board individually.

Location of Bills:

Bill 629 - <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText13/SenateText13/S0629.pdf>

Bill 5712 - <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText13/HouseText13/H5712.pdf>

Results from Data Collection

General Findings

- Except for the Real Estate Commission, all boards expedite military spouse license applications by processing them before other applications, regardless of when they are submitted, if they provide proof of status (e.g., letter from Command or copy of Orders) with their application.
- Boards expedite applications for spouses of Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members.
- All occupational boards within the Department of Health, (e.g., occupational therapy, massage therapy, counseling) have a regulatory specialist who assists with military spouse applications.
- The Board of Cosmetology is the only board that provides temporary licenses for spouses applying for licensure by endorsement.
- No information was available from any board about the number of military spouses who have transferred their licenses in the last year.

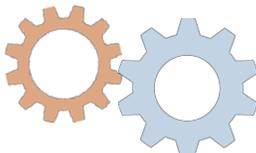
Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Military spouses applying for licensure by endorsement receive a one-time, 90-day temporary license to practice while the application for full licensure is being processed.
- The process to transfer a cosmetology license can vary but typically takes less than a week.

Dental Hygiene

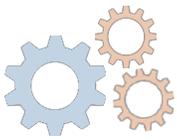
- To transfer a license, spouses must have a current license in another state with similar requirements such as a degree from an accredited dental hygiene program and successful completion of the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners (NERB) exam and state or regional board exams.
- The process to transfer a dental hygiene license takes approximately two to three days.



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



Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Massage Therapy

- Licensure by endorsement can be obtained if spouses' state of licensure has similar licensing requirements (e.g., Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination [MBLEx], approved program degree) and they submit cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid certifications along with three letters of good moral character.
- Board staff indicated that very few military spouse applications are submitted.
- The process to transfer a massage therapy license takes two to three days.

Mental Health Counseling

- For licensure by endorsement, military spouses must submit two letters of good moral character, transcripts from an accredited school, proof of completion of the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE), statements of supervised practice, and license verification from another state.
- The process to transfer a counseling license takes two to three days.

Occupational Therapy

- Requirements for licensure by endorsement include an active license in another state, successful completion of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam, and transcripts from an accredited school.
- Temporary licenses are only available for recent graduates, not for spouses transferring a license by endorsement.
- The process to transfer an occupational therapy license takes two to three days.

Real Estate Commission

- The board does not currently have any unique procedures or expediting for military spouses.
- All spouses must apply for licensure by examination.
- A task force is being formed, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Veterans Affairs office, to create policies that make it easier for military spouses to transfer their real estate licenses.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate for legislation that provides boards with more specific information and guidelines about how to expedite licensing processes for military spouses.
- Collaborate with the task force for real estate licensure as they implement procedures to expedite military spouse licensure.



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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.

