



SOUTH CAROLINA

Summary of Legislation

Legislation that regulates military spouse licensure in South Carolina includes Senate Bill 417, “Military Service Occupation, Education and Credentialing Act” passed in 2013; House Bill 3710, “Temporary Professional Licenses for Military Spouses” passed in 2012; and Senate Bill 1107 passed in 2012. These bills allow, but do not require, occupational boards to offer temporary licenses to military spouses. Although processes of endorsement, provisional, and expedited licenses are all suggested in the legislation, the majority of boards reported military spouse application processes were no different than those for other applicants.

Location of Bills:

Bill 417 - http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/417.htm

Bill 3710 - http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess119_2011-2012/bills/3710.htm

Bill 1107 - http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess119_2011-2012/bills/1107.htm

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

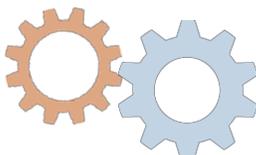
General Findings

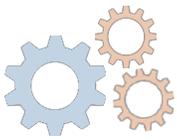
- Current transfer of license process is similar for all new residents to South Carolina.
- Real Estate Commission staff were aware of the military spouse licensure legislation; however, no other boards’ staff had knowledge of the legislation.
- Besides the Real Estate Commission, board staff reported that temporary or expedited licensing procedures are unavailable.
- No information was available about how many military spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Spouses can receive licensure by endorsement if they submit proof that they have passed a national license exam (e.g., the National Interstate Council [NIC] written and practical exam) and have licensure in another state.
- Licensure by endorsement involves meeting similar requirements in another state, including 1,500 hours of cosmetology school or five years registered as a master hair care specialist.
- The process to transfer a cosmetology license is completed within ten days of application.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Dental Hygiene

- To transfer a license, spouses must have a current license in another state with similar licensing requirements (e.g., accredited dental hygiene program degree; Central Regional Dental Testing Service [CRDTS], or Southern Regional Testing Agency [SRTA], or Commission on Dental Competency Assessments [CDCA], or American Board of Dental Examiners [ADEX] exam) and must successfully complete the South Carolina jurisprudence exam.
- For licensure by endorsement, dental hygienists need to have either actively practiced under their license for three of the past five years or been licensed within the past two years in another state.
- The process to transfer a dental hygiene license takes six to eight weeks after the application is completed.

Massage Therapy

- Licensure by endorsement can be obtained if spouses' state of licensure has similar licensing requirements, including 500 completed hours of massage therapy school and successful completion of either the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) or the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCETM/NCETMB).
- The process to transfer a massage therapy license is completed within 10 days of application.

Mental Health Counseling

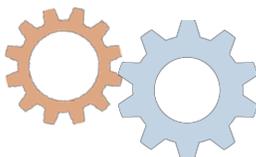
- All applications must go through the Center for Credentialing & Education, Inc. (CCE), an organization contracted by the state board to provide licensure application services.
- Licensure by endorsement is considered on a case-by-case basis depending upon whether the spouse met similar requirements in another state. Factors considered include degrees held, coursework completed, national credentials, and supervised experience.
- Once the CCE provides the state board with a completed license application, the process to transfer a counseling license takes approximately one to two weeks.

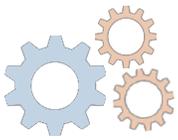
Occupational Therapy

- If spouses have passed the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam and have a valid license from another state, they can transfer their license within one year of moving to South Carolina.
- Spouses must submit verification of license in another state and proof that they have passed both the NBCOT and South Carolina jurisprudence exam to be eligible to transfer a license.
- The process to transfer an occupational therapy license takes one to two weeks.

Real Estate Commission

- Staff were aware of legislation for military spouse license portability but indicated “very few” military spouses apply for licensure in South Carolina.
- The board offers licensure by endorsement to spouses with a license in a state with equivalent requirements.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- Military spouses can be issued non-renewable temporary licenses while completing additional requirements prior to full licensure.
- The process to transfer a real estate license takes seven to ten days.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate for legislation requiring, rather than recommending, that boards implement procedures to improve the portability of licenses for military spouses.
- Encourage each occupational board to introduce specific procedures to aid military spouses in transferring licenses and thoroughly educate staff regarding these procedures.

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