

TENNESSEE

Summary of Legislation

Senate Bill 1039/House Bill 968 was passed in 2011 and regulates military spouse license portability in Tennessee. This legislation requires that health boards offer licensure by endorsement, temporary licensure, and expedited licensure for health-related occupations (e.g., mental health counselors, dental hygienists, occupational therapists, and massage therapists). However, the types of licensure currently supported by each board is variable.

Location of Bill:

Senate Bill 1039/House Bill 968 - <https://legiscan.com/TN/text/HB0968/id/524757/Tennessee-2011-HB0968-Draft.pdf>

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
<input type="radio"/>	Not addressed in legislation
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Addressed in legislation

Results from Data Collection

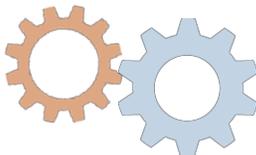
General Findings

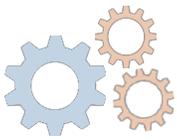
- The Board of Mental Health Counseling does not have any special processes for military spouses and does not have licensure by endorsement, temporary licenses, or expediting.
- Besides the Board of Mental Health Counseling, all other boards offer licensure by endorsement.
- Military spouse license applications are expedited for cosmetologists, dental hygienists, massage therapists, and occupational therapists.
- The Boards of Dentistry and Occupational Therapy offer temporary licenses to spouses who are completing requirements to transfer their license. Temporary licenses allow spouses to work until the next full board meeting when license criteria are thoroughly reviewed.
- 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' applications are expedited (i.e., processed first) if they indicate their status and provide proof of marriage, licensure in another state, and change of station orders.
- Spouses applying for licensure by endorsement must either meet Tennessee's 1,500 hour schooling requirement or submit proof of five years of work experience.
- The process to transfer a cosmetology license can take up to four to six weeks.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Dental Hygiene

- Spouses applying for licensure by endorsement must provide two recommendation letters from dentists and have practiced three of the past five years, as well as passed the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) exam through the Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA), Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA), Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS), Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), or Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA).
- Military spouses have their applications expedited if they submit proof of status; however, there is no request for this information on the application.
- The process to transfer a dental hygienist license varies, but the application recommends allowing at least four to six weeks for processing.

Massage Therapy

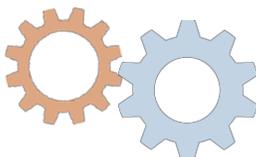
- To apply for initial licensure, spouses must provide proof of successful completion of the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) and 500 hours of approved education, including five hours of education related to Tennessee statutes and regulations.
- For licensure by endorsement, the exam and education requirements are waived if spouses have been certified and practicing for the last five years and complete five hours of education on Tennessee statutes and regulations; however, the initial licensure application is much more commonly used.
- The process to transfer a massage therapy license usually takes four to six weeks, but Active Duty military spouses' applications are expedited and processed within 72 hours.

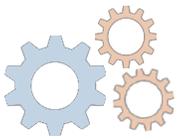
Mental Health Counseling

- Licensure by endorsement is only available for spouses licensed in Kentucky. Other spouses must apply for licensure by examination, which is granted based on graduate education, supervised experience, and successful completion of the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) and state jurisprudence exams.
- The process to transfer a counseling license takes six to eight weeks.

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 American Occupational Therapy Association accredited school.
- Processing of military spouses' applications is given priority over other applications.
- Spouses can practice under a temporary license for up to 90 days while waiting to take exams if they are supervised by a fully licensed occupational therapist in Tennessee.
- The process to transfer an occupational therapy license can take up to six weeks.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Real Estate Commission

- Spouses can obtain licensure by endorsement if they have a license from a state with equivalent requirements and pass the state jurisprudence exam.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Ensure that all applications inquire about military spouse status so that special licensing procedures available to military spouses can be utilized.
- Collaborate with the Board of Mental Health Counseling to establish and enact procedures to facilitate military spouse licensure.

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