

TEXAS

Summary of Legislation

Senate Bill 162, enacted in 2013 and Senate Bill 1733, enacted in 2011, require occupational boards in Texas to have processes of licensure by endorsement, temporary licensure, and expedited licensure for military spouses. Most boards report having processes for licensure by endorsement and expedited licensure, but temporary licenses are rarely issued.

Location of Bills:

Senate Bill 162 -

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/83R/billtext/html/SB00162F.htm>

Senate Bill 1733 -

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/SB01733F.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

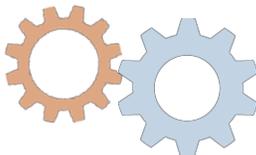
General Findings

- The Real Estate Commission does not appear to offer any unique military application processes and does not have licensure by endorsement, temporary licensure, or expedited licensure.
- All boards except the Real Estate Commission offer licensure by endorsement.
- Only the Board of Cosmetology offers a temporary license.
- All boards except the Board of Dentistry and the Real Estate Commission expedite military spouse license applications.
- The Cosmetology, Massage Therapy, and Occupational Therapy boards have links to information regarding military spouse licensure on their main websites.
- No boards had information about the number of military spouses who transferred licenses in the last year.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Licensure by endorsement requires a license from another state with similar requirements and proof of competency via a combination of education, continuing education, exams, recommendation letters, and work experience.
- Spouses who apply for licensure by endorsement can be issued a temporary license for up to six months, at which point a determination must be made regarding their full license application.
- Spouses of Active Duty military members have their applications expedited when they submit a military spouse supplemental application form and proof of their marital status, licensure in another state, and spouse's change of station orders.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Dental Hygiene

- Board staff report that there are no unique processes for military spouse applications. The board's application asks for military status; however, there are no clearly stated unique processes for military spouse application processing on the board's website.
- For licensure by endorsement, spouses must have a valid license in another state with similar requirements (e.g., dental hygiene degree from an accredited school, successful completion of the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam [NBDHE] and a regional exam), have completed a jurisprudence exam, and have actively practiced three of the previous five years.
- The board does not have processes for temporary licenses or expedited licensure.
- The process for a spouse to transfer a dental hygienist license takes four to six weeks after submission of a completed application.

Massage Therapy

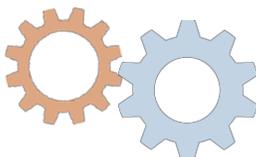
- Licensure by endorsement requires licensure in another state with similar requirements (e.g., completion of a certified training program and a state or national exam) and successful completion of a jurisprudence exam.
- The process to transfer a massage therapy license typically takes four to six weeks, but expedited military spouse applications are processed within one to two weeks.

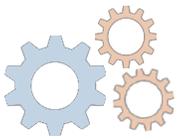
Mental Health Counseling

- Applications for spouses of Active Duty military members are expedited and eligible for licensure by endorsement, which may include waiving requirements on a case-by-case basis.
- For licensure by endorsement, spouses must have a license in good standing from another state with similar requirements (e.g., National Counselor Examination [NCE], graduate degree from an accredited program).
- The board does not issue temporary licenses except to recent graduates.
- The process to transfer a counseling license takes approximately ten to twelve weeks, but expedited military spouse applications are processed within four weeks.

Occupational Therapy

- For spouses of Active Duty military members, license applications are expedited, the fee is waived, and the board requests verification of credentials (e.g., licensure in another state, exams) rather than requiring the spouse to submit them.
- Licensure by endorsement requires proof of licensure in another state with similar requirements (e.g., accredited education program, National Board of Certification of Occupational Therapy [NBCOT] exam) and successful completion of a jurisprudence exam.
- Temporary licenses are only available for recent graduates.
- The process to transfer an occupational therapy license typically takes approximately one to two days for expedited military spouse applications.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

Real Estate Commission

- The board's website has a link to a supplemental form with more information about equivalent state requirements; however, the board does not have any unique processes for military spouse licensure.
- The board does not offer licensure by endorsement, temporary licensure, or expedited license application processes.
- Licensure requires 180 hours of accredited education, a background check, successful completion of an examination, and sponsorship by a fully-licensed professional.
- The process to transfer a real estate license takes three to four weeks after a completed application is submitted.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Advocate for a staff member on each board to be designated to help military spouses with licensure questions, applications, and expediting and to ensure spouses are able to contact board staff.
- Encourage all boards to incorporate links to military spouse information on their websites and to prominently display military-related links in easy to find locations.

For additional information, please contact:

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