

WASHINGTON

Summary of Legislation

House Bill 5969, which was enacted in 2012, requires occupational boards to have processes of licensure by endorsement, temporary licensure, and expedited licensure for military spouses. Most boards have procedures for licensure by endorsement and expediting application processes, but only boards within the Department of Health issue temporary licenses to military spouses.

Location of Bill:

Bill 5969 - <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5969&Year=2011>

Results from Data Collection

General Findings

- The Department of Health has a designated military liaison, who provides spouses in health professions (e.g., dental hygienists, occupational therapists, counselors) with one-on-one information and advising regarding licensure, and a Department of Health Military Resources website, which provides laws, forms, and helpful information and contacts for spouses.
- All boards except the Board of Massage Therapy offer licensure by endorsement.
- All boards except the Real Estate Commission expedite military spouse license applications.
- Only the boards within the Department of Health provide spouses with temporary licenses.
- The boards within the Department of Health have had fewer than 20 military spouses transfer a license during the past year. No other boards had information about the number of military spouses transferring licenses.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Licensure by endorsement requires a license from another state with similar requirements (e.g., 2,000 hours of apprenticeship, 1,600 hours of education, practical and written exams).
- Applications do not include questions about military spouse status, so an application is only expedited if a spouse calls the board to request expediting, which the board reported is rare.
- The process to transfer a cosmetology license takes about one to two weeks after submission.

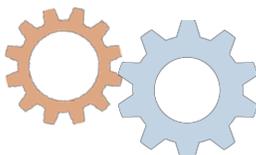
Dental Hygiene

- For licensure by endorsement, spouses must have a valid license in another state with similar requirements (e.g., National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, American Dental Association accredited education program) and have actively practiced during the past year.

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)

- Temporary licenses are issued to spouses who meet licensing requirements and are waiting for the results of a background check to be processed. A spouse can also practice under a licensed supervisor with a six-month temporary license while completing state-specific requirements.
- An application is expedited if a spouse or domestic partner of a Service member submits proof of domestic partnership or marriage and the Service member's transfer orders to Washington.
- The process for a spouse to transfer a dental hygienist license takes 21 days or less once a completed application is submitted.

Massage Therapy

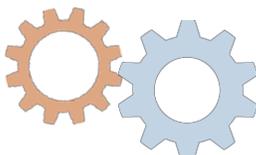
- Licensure by endorsement is not available, and all spouses need to meet the education and examination requirements, including the jurisprudence exam.
- Temporary licenses are usually not issued outside of unusual circumstances that delay application processing.
- Spouses of Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserve members have their applications expedited by processing them first in all five steps involved in issuing a massage therapy license.
- The process to transfer a massage therapy license varies depending upon the volume of applications the board receives.

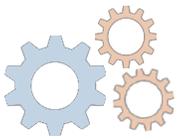
Mental Health Counseling

- Licensure by endorsement requires a license in another state with equivalent requirements (e.g., master's or doctoral mental health degree, 3,000 post-graduate supervised hours, 36 hours of continuing education for every two years of practice, successful completion of the National Counselor Exam [NCE] or National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam [NCMHCE]).
- Temporary licenses are issued to spouses who meet licensing requirements and are waiting for the results of a background check to be processed. Spouses can also practice under a licensed supervisor with a six-month temporary license while completing state-specific requirements.
- An application is expedited if a spouse or domestic partner of a Service member submits proof of marriage or domestic partnership and the Service member's transfer orders to Washington.
- The expedited process to transfer a military spouse's counseling license takes 21 days or less following application submission.

Occupational Therapy

- Spouses applying for licensure by endorsement must submit proof of successful completion of a jurisprudence exam, an accredited education program, and the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.
- Temporary licenses are issued to spouses who meet licensing requirements and are waiting for the results of a background check to be processed. A spouse can also practice under a licensed supervisor with a six-month temporary license while completing state-specific requirements.
- An application is expedited if a spouse or domestic partner of a Service member submits proof of domestic partnership or marriage and the Service member's transfer orders to Washington.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- The process to transfer a massage therapy license takes 21 days or less after submission of an expedited military spouse application.

Real Estate Commission

- Military spouse applications are processed the same as all applications; however, the program manager can help spouses with application questions or concerns. The board recommends beginning the application and taking the state exam before a spouse moves to Washington.
- For licensure by endorsement, spouses must submit an application with proof of licensure in another state and successfully complete the jurisprudence exam.
- The board does not have procedures for temporary licensure or expediting license applications.
- The process to transfer a real estate license takes approximately two to three weeks after application submission.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Ensure that applications for all occupations ask about military spouse status to allow board staff to easily identify and expedite military spouse applications.
- Advocate for a military liaison position on each board (similar to the Department of Health), allowing spouses in other occupations to access the valuable one-on-one advising.

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Developed in collaboration with the 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.

