

WASHINGTON DC

Summary of Legislation

There is currently no military spouse licensure portability legislation in Washington D.C. In 2016, the Alternatives to Licensing that Lower Obstacles to Work Act (ALLOW) was proposed, but did not pass. Based on the guidelines on each board’s website, all boards allow for licensure by endorsement or reciprocity for some or all of their licensure requirements.

Location of ALLOW Act - <https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/s3158/BILLS-114s3158is.pdf>

Location of Occupational Board’s Regulations:

Cosmetology - http://www.pearsonvue.com/dc/barbers_cosmo/

Dental Hygiene - <https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Dental%20Hygiene%20Regulations.pdf>

Massage Therapy - https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/2626_001.pdf

Mental Health Counselors - <https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Professional%20Counseling%20Regulations.pdf>

Occupational Therapy - https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/ot_updated%20January%2017%202014.pdf

Real Estate Commission - <http://www.pearsonvue.com/dc/realestate/>

Legislation Meets Best Practices Guidelines for Military Spouse Licensure Portability by:

<input type="radio"/>	Licensure by endorsement
<input type="radio"/>	Temporary or provisional licensing
<input type="radio"/>	Expedited application process

- Not addressed in legislation
- Addressed in legislation

Results from Data Collection

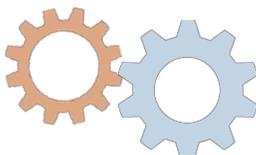
General Findings

- The Real Estate Commission has reciprocity with Maryland and Virginia; no other board indicated reciprocity with another state.
- No board has an expedited process to approve applications or issues temporary licenses for military spouses.
- No board representative responded to requests for information from the Dentistry and Cosmetology boards.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- No representative from this board replied to communications seeking additional information about the process to transfer licenses for military spouses.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- Based on the website, there is no special process for military spouses to transfer their licenses. To transfer their licenses via reciprocity, spouses must submit proof that their licenses are in good-standing from a jurisdiction with “substantially equivalent” requirements as those of the District of Columbia.
- To transfer their licenses via endorsement, spouses must submit written verification they passed a licensing exam that is acceptable to the board and that they have been certified by a national organization (name of the national exam was not specified on the website).

Dental Hygiene

- No representative from this board replied to communications seeking additional information about the process to transfer licenses for military spouses.
- Based on the website, there is no special process for military spouses to transfer their licenses. For spouses who wish to transfer their licenses, they must submit proof they passed the National Board of Dental Hygiene Examination, the North East Regional Board (NERB) exam, and the District of Columbia Dental Law Examination as well as verification of an active dental hygiene license in good standing.
- If spouses have passed a regional or state dental examination other than the NERB exam, they must also submit verification that their licenses were in good standing for three years immediately preceding the application. Spouses must also have at least 150 hours of active dental hygiene practice.

Massage Therapy

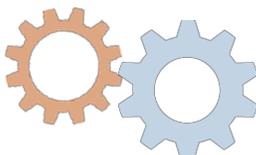
- Military spouses must submit verification of their previous license and undergo a background check.
- Once spouses submit a completed application, licenses are issued in four to six weeks.

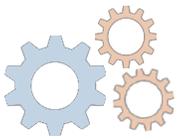
Mental Health Counseling

- Military spouses must submit verification that their license from a previous jurisdiction is in good standing. They must also submit documentation of the board’s requirements of licensure from the previous jurisdiction, official transcripts, and exam scores.
- If spouses have been licensed and in practice five or more years, there may be flexibility with board requirements. For example, instead of needing 3,500 hours to be licensed, spouses may be allowed to have 3,300 hours.
- Once spouses submit a completed application, their licenses are issued in one to three months.

Occupational Therapy

- Military spouses must submit verification that they hold at least one valid, active, and unrestricted license in good standing from another jurisdiction. If applicable, they must also submit proof of license from all other jurisdictions in which they have ever been licensed, even if the licenses are inactive.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

Results from Data Collection (continued)

- Spouses must provide proof of passing exam scores on the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam as well as official graduate transcripts.

Real Estate Commission

- To transfer their license, military spouses must have been licensed in a previous jurisdiction with the same standards as the national exam standards (name of national exam was not specified) and submit a letter of certification from the previous jurisdiction. They must also pass the District of Columbia jurisprudence exam.
- Spouses must submit proof of continuing education units (CEUs) and a description of pre-licensing courses completed in their previous jurisdiction.
- Once spouses submit a completed application, their licenses are issued in a few weeks.

Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Continue to advocate for a bill that would allow military spouses in all occupations to obtain licensure by endorsement, expedited licenses, and temporary licenses.
- Encourage occupational boards to have a point of contact to help support military spouses as they navigate the requirements to transfer their licenses.

For additional information, please contact:

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