

House Bill 188

By: Representatives Coomer of the 14th, Jones of the 47th, England of the 116th, Holcomb of the 81st, Yates of the 73rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and
2 businesses, so as to provide that certain military certifications shall entitle persons to obtain
3 certain professional licenses in this state; to provide that the spouse of a member of the
4 military living in this state because of the military spouse's assignment shall be entitled to
5 obtain certain professional licenses based upon his or her licensing in another state; to
6 provide for powers and duties of the director of the professional licensing boards division of
7 the Secretary of State; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,
12 is amended in Chapter 14, relating to electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air
13 contractors, low-voltage contractors, and utility contractors, by adding two new Code
14 sections to read as follows:

15 "43-14-15.

16 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

17 (1) 'Discharge' means an honorable discharge or a general discharge from active military
18 service. Such term shall not mean a discharge under other than honorable conditions, a
19 bad conduct discharge, or a dishonorable discharge.

20 (2) 'Military' means the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the
21 armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard.

22 (b) The division director, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce
23 Development, shall determine the military specialties or certifications the training or
24 experience for which substantially meet or exceed the requirements to obtain the following
25 professional licenses:

26 (1) Electrical Contractor Class I;

27 (2) Journeyman Plumber;

28 (3) Conditioned Air Contractor Class I; and

29 (4) Utility Foreman.

30 (c) Any current or former member of the military may apply to the division director for
31 the immediate issuance of a license or certification based upon his or her having obtained
32 a military specialty or certification the training or experience for which substantially meet
33 or exceed the requirements to obtain a license or certification identified in subsection (b)
34 of this Code section. In order to qualify under this subsection, an applicant shall make
35 application not later than 180 days after his or her discharge. Such application shall be in
36 such form and shall require such documentation as the division director shall determine.
37 If the applicant satisfies the requirements of this Code section, the division director shall
38 direct the appropriate division to issue the appropriate license, and the division shall
39 immediately issue such license; provided, however, that the applicant shall satisfy all
40 financial and insurance requirements for the issuance of such license. This Code section
41 shall only apply to the initial issuance of a license. After the initial issuance of a license,
42 the licensee shall be subject to any provisions relating to the renewal of the license
43 applicable to all licensees.

44 43-14-16.

45 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'military' means the armed forces of the United
46 States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the
47 National Guard.

48 (b) The spouse of any member of the military who resides in this state due to the
49 assignment of the military spouse and who holds a license or certification from another
50 state the training, experience, or testing for which substantially meet or exceed the Georgia
51 requirements to obtain a license or certification as an Electrical Contractor Class I,
52 Journeyman Plumber, Conditioned Air Contractor Class I, or Utility Foreman shall be
53 entitled to apply to the division director for the immediate issuance of such a license or
54 certification. Such application shall be in such form and shall require such documentation
55 as the division director shall determine. If the applicant satisfies the requirements of this
56 Code section, the division director shall direct the appropriate division to issue the
57 appropriate license, and the division shall immediately issue such license; provided,
58 however, that the applicant shall satisfy all financial and insurance requirements for the
59 issuance of such license. This Code section shall only apply to the initial issuance of a
60 license. After the initial issuance of a license, the licensee shall be subject to any
61 provisions relating to the renewal of the license applicable to all licensees."

62 **SECTION 2.**

63 Said title is further amended in Chapter 41, relating to residential and general contractors, by
64 adding two new Code sections to read as follows:

65 "43-41-18.

66 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

67 (1) 'Discharge' means an honorable discharge or a general discharge from active military
68 service. Such term shall not mean a discharge under other than honorable conditions, a
69 bad conduct discharge, or a dishonorable discharge.

70 (2) 'Military' means the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the
71 armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard.

72 (b) The division director, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce
73 Development, shall determine the military specialties or certifications the training or
74 experience for which substantially meet or exceed the requirements to obtain a
75 residential-light commercial contractor's license.

76 (c) Any current or former member of the military may apply to the division director for
77 the immediate issuance of a license or certification based upon his or her having obtained
78 a military specialty or certification the training or experience for which substantially meet
79 or exceed the requirements to obtain a residential-light commercial contractor's license.
80 In order to qualify under this subsection, an applicant shall make application not later than
81 180 days after his or her discharge. Such application shall be in such form and shall
82 require such documentation as the division director shall determine. If the applicant
83 satisfies the requirements of this Code section, the division director shall direct the
84 appropriate division to issue the license, and such division shall immediately issue such
85 license; provided, however, that the applicant shall satisfy all financial and insurance
86 requirements for the issuance of such license. This Code section shall only apply to the
87 initial issuance of a license. After the initial issuance of a license, the licensee shall be
88 subject to any provisions relating to the renewal of the license applicable to all licensees.

89 43-41-19.

90 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'military' means the armed forces of the United
91 States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the
92 National Guard.

93 (b) The spouse of any member of the military who resides in this state due to the
94 assignment of the military spouse and who holds a license or certification from another
95 state the training, experience, or testing for which substantially meet or exceed the Georgia
96 requirements to obtain a license or certification as a residential-light commercial contractor
97 shall be entitled to apply to the division director for the immediate issuance of such a

98 license. Such application shall be in such form and shall require such documentation as the
99 division director shall determine. If the applicant satisfies the requirements of this Code
100 section, the division director shall direct the appropriate division to issue the license, and
101 such division shall immediately issue such license; provided, however, that the applicant
102 shall satisfy all financial and insurance requirements for the issuance of such license. This
103 Code section shall only apply to the initial issuance of a license. After the initial issuance
104 of a license, the licensee shall be subject to any provisions relating to the renewal of the
105 license applicable to all licensees."

106 **SECTION 3.**

107 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.