

House Bill 821

By: Representatives Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Frazier of the 126<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Yates of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 general provisions applicable to professions and businesses, so as to require professional  
3 licensing boards and other boards to adopt rules and regulations implementing a process by  
4 which military spouses and transitioning service members may qualify for temporary  
5 licenses, licenses by endorsement, expedited licenses, or a combination thereof for each  
6 profession, business, or trade for which a license is issued; to provide a short title; to provide  
7 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Military Spouses and Veterans Licensure  
11 Act."

12 SECTION 2.

13 Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
14 provisions applicable to professions and businesses, is amended by adding a new Code  
15 section to read as follows:

16 "43-1-34.

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

18 (1) 'License' means a document, permit, certificate of registration, or other authorization  
19 issued by or on behalf of a professional licensing board or other board that is required  
20 under this title for a person to engage in a profession, business, or trade.

21 (2) 'Military' means the United States armed forces, including the National Guard.

22 (3) 'Military spouse' means a spouse of a service member or transitioning service  
23 member.

24 (4) 'Other board' means a board created pursuant to this title that is not a professional  
25 licensing board.

26 (5) 'Service member' means an active or reserve member of the armed forces, including  
27 the National Guard.

28 (6) 'Transitioning service member' means a member of the military on active duty status  
29 or on separation leave who is within 24 months of retirement or 12 months of separation.

30 (b) No later than July 1, 2017, each professional licensing board and other board shall  
31 adopt rules and regulations implementing a process by which military spouses and  
32 transitioning service members may qualify for temporary licenses, licenses by  
33 endorsement, expedited licenses, or a combination thereof for each profession, business,  
34 or trade for which a license is issued. Such process may include the issuance of a license  
35 to an applicant based upon such applicant:

36 (1) Holding a license from another state for which the training, experience, and testing  
37 substantially meet or exceed the requirements under this state to obtain a license; and

38 (2) Obtaining a specialty, certification, training, or experience in the military while a  
39 service member which substantially meets or exceeds the requirements to obtain a license  
40 in this state.

41 (c) Any professional licensing board or other board created after June 30, 2016, shall adopt  
42 within one year of its creation the rules and regulations required by subsection (b) of this  
43 Code section."

44 **SECTION 3.**

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