

House Bill 155

By: Representatives Martin of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Jasperse of the 11<sup>th</sup>, and Reeves of the 99<sup>th</sup>

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 of professions and businesses, so as to provide for the issuance of licenses  
3 by endorsement for certain licenses to spouses of firefighters, healthcare providers, and law  
4 enforcement officers who relocate to the State of Georgia; to establish qualifications for such  
5 license by endorsement; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions and  
6 applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
11 provisions of professions and businesses, is amended by revising Code Section 43-1-35,  
12 relating to expedited license by endorsement for spouse of active or transitioning members  
13 of the armed forces, as follows:

14 "43-1-35.

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

16 (1) 'Firefighter' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 45-9-81.

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17 (2) 'Healthcare provider' means any physician or other person licensed or otherwise  
 18 authorized in this state to furnish healthcare services, including any dentist, podiatrist,  
 19 optometrist, pharmacist, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, clinical social  
 20 worker, registered professional nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed  
 21 practical nurse, registered optician, physical therapist, chiropractor, physician assistant,  
 22 cardiac technician, emergency medical technician, or paramedic.

23 (3) 'Law enforcement officer' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code  
 24 Section 45-9-81.

25 ~~(1)~~(4) 'License' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

26 ~~(2)~~(5) 'Other board' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

27 ~~(3)~~(6) 'Service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section  
 28 43-1-34.

29 ~~(4)~~(7) 'State' means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,  
 30 the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
 31 jurisdiction of the United States.

32 ~~(5)~~(8) 'Transitioning service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code  
 33 Section 43-1-34.

34 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other  
 35 board shall issue an expedited license by endorsement to any individual who:

36 ~~(1)~~ Is is a spouse of a service member or transitioning service member stationed within  
 37 the State of Georgia; who:

38 ~~(2)~~(1) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another  
 39 state for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in  
 40 qualifications and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license;

41 ~~(3)~~(2) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or  
 42 a disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other  
 43 board in such other state; and

44 ~~(4)~~(3) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of  
45 the laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession,  
46 business, or trade for which such expedited license by endorsement is being sought.

47 (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other  
48 board shall issue a license by endorsement to any individual who is a spouse of a  
49 firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer; provided that:

50 (1) Such individual's spouse was employed as a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law  
51 enforcement officer in another state prior to relocating to this state and obtaining  
52 employment as a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer in the State  
53 of Georgia; and

54 (2) Such individual:

55 (A) Moved from another state and established residency in this state;

56 (B) Holds a current license to practice an occupation or profession other than that of  
57 a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer;

58 (C) Was issued such license by another state prior to establishing residency in this state  
59 for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in qualifications  
60 and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license;

61 (D) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or  
62 a disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other  
63 board in such other state; and

64 (E) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the  
65 laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession,  
66 business, or trade for which such license by endorsement is being sought.

67 (d) Subsection (c) of this Code section shall not be used to grant a license by endorsement  
68 of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer to any individual.

69 ~~(e)~~(e) An expedited license by endorsement shall be issued no later than 90 days from the  
70 date of receipt of an application and information and documents that show that all of the

71 requirements of subsection (b) of this Code section have been met. Such application shall  
72 only require such information and documentation necessary to verify that the applicant  
73 meets the requirements set forth in subsection (b) of this Code section.

74 (f) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to be applicable to a license  
75 or admission to practice law in this state.

76 ~~(d)~~(g) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to invalidate, override,  
77 or amend any licensing compact entered into by the State of Georgia or to permit the  
78 issuance of a license without verification under Code Section 50-36-1."

79 **SECTION 2.**

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