

**MOOT**

Senator Walker of the 20th offered the following amendment #1:

1 *Amend the House substitute to SB 195 (LC 46 0655S) by replacing lines 1 through the end*  
2 *with the following:*

3 To amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and  
4 businesses, so as to repeal Code Section 43-1-34, relating to licenses for transitioning  
5 members of the armed forces, and Code Section 43-1-35, relating to expedited license by  
6 endorsement for spouses of active or transitioning members of the armed forces, and to enact  
7 statutes to facilitate licensure of service members and their spouses who have certifications  
8 from or work experience in the military or licenses from or work experience in another state  
9 under certain conditions; to provide for definitions; to provide for criteria to obtain an  
10 expedited license by endorsement to practice a profession, business, or trade in this state; to  
11 provide for such license to be issued within a certain time frame from the date of application;  
12 to provide that such licensees are subject to this state's laws and the jurisdiction of the  
13 respective professional licensing board or other board; to provide for licenses by  
14 endorsement for certain professions other than firefighters, healthcare providers, and law  
15 enforcement officers; to establish qualifications for such licenses by endorsement; to provide  
16 for exceptions and applicability; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters;  
17 to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

18 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

19 **SECTION 1.**

20 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Freedom to Work Act."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,  
23 is amended by repealing Code Section 43-1-34, relating to licenses for transitioning members  
24 of the armed forces, in its entirety and enacting a new Code Section 43-1-34 to read as  
25 follows:

26 "43-1-34.

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

28 (1) 'License' means a document, permit, certificate of registration, or other authorization  
29 issued by or on behalf of a professional licensing board or other board that is required  
30 under this title for a person to engage in a profession, business, or trade or an  
31 occupational specialty, certification, or other document earned in the military.

32 (2) 'Military' means the United States armed forces, including the air force, army, coast  
33 guard, marine corps, navy, space force, national guard, and all reserve components and  
34 auxiliaries. Such term also includes the military reserves and militia of any United States  
35 territory or state.

36 (3) 'Other board' means a board created pursuant to this title that is not a professional  
37 licensing board in this state.

38 (4) 'Scope of practice' means the procedures, actions, processes, and work that a person  
39 may perform under an occupational license.

40 (5) 'Service member' means an active duty member of the regular or reserve component  
41 of the United States military.

42 (6) 'State' means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the  
43 United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
44 jurisdiction of the United States, or any branch or unit of the military.

45 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other  
46 board shall issue an expedited license by endorsement to a service member or spouse of a  
47 service member upon application who:

48 (1) Holds a current and valid license to practice a profession, business, or trade issued  
49 by another state for an occupation with a similar scope of practice in this state, as  
50 determined by a professional licensing board or other board;

51 (2) Has held such license for at least one year;

52 (3) Is in good standing in such other state and whose license has not been revoked,  
53 suspended, or surrendered because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to  
54 such person's work in the profession, business, or trade;

55 (4) Does not have a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending before a  
56 governmental entity in another state which relates to unprofessional conduct or an alleged  
57 crime; provided, however, that, if such person has a pending complaint, allegation, or  
58 investigation, a professional licensing board or other board shall not issue or deny a  
59 license in this state until such complaint, allegation, or investigation is resolved. In such  
60 instance, the licensing board or other board shall consult with such other state;

61 (5) Does not have a disqualifying criminal record as determined by the professional  
62 licensing board or other board;

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

66 (7) Pays all applicable fees required by the professional licensing board or other board  
67 in this state.

68 (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other  
69 board shall issue an expedited license to a service member or spouse of a service member  
70 upon application based on work experience in another state if all of the following apply:

71 (1) Such service member or spouse worked in a profession, business, or trade in another  
72 state that does not require a license to regulate such occupation, but this state requires a  
73 license for an occupation with a similar scope of practice, as determined by a professional  
74 licensing board or other board;

- 75 (2) Such service member or spouse worked in such profession, business, or trade in  
76 another state for at least three years; and
- 77 (3) Such service member or spouse satisfies the requirements of paragraphs (4) through  
78 (7) of subsection (b) of this Code section.
- 79 (d) An expedited license shall be issued no later than 30 days from the date of receipt of  
80 an application and information and documents that show that all of the requirements of  
81 subsection (b) or (c) of this Code section have been met. Such application shall only  
82 require such information and documentation necessary to verify that the applicant meets  
83 the requirements set forth in subsection (b) or (c) of this Code section.
- 84 (e) An applicant who is refused a license under this Code section may not apply again on  
85 an expedited basis for the same license.
- 86 (f) A license issued under this Code section is valid only in this state. Such license does  
87 not make the licensee eligible to work in another state under an interstate licensure compact  
88 or reciprocity agreement, unless otherwise provided by law.
- 89 (g) A person who obtains a license under this Code section is subject to the laws of this  
90 state and the jurisdiction of the respective professional licensing board or other board in  
91 this state.
- 92 (h) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to invalidate, override, or  
93 amend any interstate licensure compact entered into by this state."

94 **SECTION 3.**

95 Said title is further amended by repealing Code Section 43-1-35, relating to expedited license  
96 by endorsement for spouses of active or transitioning members of the armed forces, in its  
97 entirety and enacting a new Code Section 43-1-35 to read as follows:

98 "43-1-35.

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

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

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

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

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

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

111 (6) 'State' means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the  
112 United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
113 jurisdiction of the United States.

114 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other  
115 board shall issue a license by endorsement to any individual seeking licensure for a  
116 profession other than that of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or a law enforcement officer,  
117 provided that such individual has:

118 (1) Moved from another state and established residency in this state;

119 (2) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another  
120 state prior to establishing residency in this state for which the training, experience, and  
121 testing are substantially similar in qualifications and scope to the requirements under this  
122 state to obtain a license;

123 (3) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or a  
124 disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other board  
125 in such other state; and

- 126 (4) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the  
127 laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession,  
128 business, or trade for which such license by endorsement is being sought.
- 129 (c) Subsection (b) of this Code section shall not be used to grant a license by endorsement  
130 of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer to any individual.
- 131 (d) An application for a license by endorsement shall only require such information and  
132 documentation necessary to verify that the applicant meets the requirements set forth in  
133 subsection (b) of this Code section.
- 134 (f) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to be applicable to a license  
135 or admission to practice law in this state.
- 136 (g) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to invalidate, override, or  
137 amend any licensing compact entered into by the State of Georgia or to permit the issuance  
138 of a license without verification under Code Section 50-36-1."

139 **SECTION 4.**

140 Said title is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 43-50-42, relating to  
141 issuance and renewal of temporary license for transitioning service members.

142 **SECTION 5.**

143 This Act shall become effective on March 1, 2024.

144 **SECTION 6.**

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