

House Bill 887

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Sainz of the 180th, Hitchens of the 161st, and Ballard of the 147th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapters 14 and 41 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating
2 to electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low-voltage contractors, and
3 utility contractors and residential and commercial general contractors, respectively, so as to
4 revise provisions relating to the issuance of certain professional licenses based on specialties
5 or certifications obtained during service in the military; to provide for the issuance of
6 additional professional licenses based on such specialties or certifications; to streamline the
7 process of identifying such specialties or certifications that qualify for the issuances of such
8 licenses; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
9 for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Patriots in Trades Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Chapter 14 of Title 41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to electrical
15 contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low-voltage contractors, and utility

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16 contractors, is amended by revising Code Section 43-41-15, relating to certain military
17 certifications entitle persons to obtain certain professional licenses, as follows:

18 "43-14-15.

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

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

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

25 ~~(b) A committee composed of the division director, members of the Governor's Office of~~
26 ~~Workforce Development, and members of the~~ No later than January 1, 2026, each division
27 of the board shall determine relevant divisions of the licensing board representing the
28 profession for which the applicant is seeking a license shall determine the military any
29 specialties or certifications obtainable in the military, the training, or experience, and
30 testing for which substantially meets or exceeds the requirements to obtain a any license
31 or certificate under this chapter except for any requirement that the necessary experience
32 or training be obtained under the employment or direction of a person licensed in this state.
33 ~~for Electrical Contractor Class I, Journeyman Plumber, Conditioned Air Contractor Class~~
34 ~~I, or Utility Foreman. The Governor shall designate a chairperson from among the~~
35 ~~members of the committee~~ Such specialties or certifications shall be compiled in a list that
36 is published on the public website of the Secretary of State. Beginning in calendar
37 year 2027, and at least annually thereafter, such divisions shall review such list and
38 determine whether revisions are needed, including, without limitation, whether any
39 additional such specialties or certifications shall be included on such list.

40 (c) Any current or former member of the military may apply ~~to the licensing board~~ for the
41 immediate issuance of a license or ~~certification~~ certificate under this chapter based upon
42 his or her having obtained a ~~military~~ specialty or certification during his or her service in

43 ~~the military, the training or experience for which substantially meets or exceeds the~~
 44 ~~requirements to obtain a license or certification that is identified in by the relevant division~~
 45 ~~of the board pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section as requiring training,~~
 46 ~~experience, and testing that meets or exceeds the requirements under this chapter to obtain~~
 47 ~~such license or certificate.~~ In order to qualify for a license or certificate under this
 48 subsection, an applicant shall make an application not later than ~~two~~ four years after his or
 49 her discharge. The ~~licensing~~ board, in its discretion, may, by rule or regulation, extend
 50 such ~~two-year~~ four-year period for a any license or certification, or class thereof, under this
 51 chapter or may extend such ~~two-year~~ four-year period for an individual applicant if certain
 52 circumstances, including, but not limited to, health, hospitalization, or other related
 53 emergencies or exigencies, prevented the ~~member of the military~~ individual from making
 54 an application within such time period. Such application shall be in such form and shall
 55 require such documentation as the division director shall determine. If the applicant
 56 satisfies the requirements of this Code section, the division director shall direct the
 57 appropriate division of the board to issue the appropriate license or certificate, and ~~the such~~
 58 ~~division of the board~~ shall immediately issue such license or certificate; provided, however,
 59 that the applicant shall satisfy all financial and insurance requirements for the issuance of
 60 such license or certificate. This Code section shall only apply to the initial issuance of a
 61 license or certificate under this chapter. After the initial issuance of a such license
 62 certificate, the ~~licensee~~ individual holding such license or certificate shall be subject to any
 63 provisions of this title relating to the renewal of ~~the such~~ license or certificate applicable
 64 to all licensees."

65 **SECTION 3.**

66 Chapter 41 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to residential and
 67 commercial general contractors, is amended by revising Code Section 43-41-18, relating to

68 certain military specialties or certifications entitle persons to obtain certain professional
69 licenses, as follows:

70 "43-41-18.

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

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

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

77 ~~(b) A committee composed of the division director, members of the Governor's Office of~~
78 ~~Workforce Development, and members of the licensing~~ No later than January 1, 2026, the
79 ~~board representing the profession of residential light-commercial contracting shall~~
80 ~~determine the military~~ any specialties or certifications obtainable in the military, the
81 training, experience, and testing for which substantially meet or exceed the requirements
82 to obtain a residential light-commercial contractor's any license under this chapter except
83 for any requirement that the necessary experience or training be obtained under the
84 employment or direction of a person licensed in this state. Such specialties or certifications
85 shall be compiled in a list that is published on the public website of the Secretary of State.
86 Beginning in calendar year 2027, and at least annually thereafter, the board shall review
87 such list and determine whether revisions are needed, including, without limitation,
88 whether any additional such specialties or certifications shall be included on such list. The
89 ~~Governor shall designate a chairperson from among the membership of the committee.~~

90 (c) Any current or former member of the military may apply to the ~~licensing~~ board for the
91 immediate issuance of a license ~~or certification~~ under this chapter based upon his or her
92 having obtained a ~~military~~ specialty or certification during his or her service in the military
93 that is identified by the board pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section as requiring
94 training, experience, and testing that ~~the training or experience for which substantially~~

95 meets or exceeds the requirements to obtain a residential light-commercial contractor's such
96 license. In order to qualify for a license under this subsection, an applicant shall make an
97 application not later than ~~180 days~~ four years after his or her discharge. The board, in its
98 discretion, may, by rule or regulation, extend such four-year period for any license under
99 this chapter or may extend such four-year period for an individual applicant if certain
100 circumstances, including, but not limited to, health, hospitalization, or other related
101 emergencies or exigencies prevented the individual from making an application within such
102 time period. Such application shall be in such form and shall require such documentation
103 as the division director shall determine. If the applicant satisfies the requirements of this
104 Code section, the division director shall direct the appropriate division of the board to issue
105 the license, and such division of the board shall immediately issue such license; provided,
106 however, that the applicant shall satisfy all financial and insurance requirements for the
107 issuance of such license. This Code section shall only apply to the initial issuance of a
108 license under this chapter. After the initial issuance of a license, the licensee shall be
109 subject to any provisions of this title relating to the renewal of the such license applicable
110 to all licensees."

111 **SECTION 4.**

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