

Date of Hearing: June 2, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 2549 (Salas) – As Amended May 18, 2020

Policy Committee: Business and Professions

Vote: 19 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill adds specified licensing boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to the list of boards required to issue temporary licenses to military spouses. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Adds the following boards to the existing requirement to issue a temporary license to a qualified spouse or domestic partner of a military member on active duty:
 - a) The Dental Board of California.
 - b) The Dental Hygiene Board of California.
 - c) The California State Board of Pharmacy.
 - d) The State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.
 - e) The Board of Psychology.
 - f) The California Board of Occupational Therapy.
 - g) The Physical Therapy Board of California.
 - h) The California Board of Accountancy.
- 2) Clarifies that a board required to issue a temporary license must issue the license within 30 days of receiving the required documentation.
- 3) Requires the boards required to issue temporary licenses to submit draft regulations to DCA for approval by January 1, 2022.
- 4) Exempts a board from the temporary license requirements if the board has a similar process in place.
- 5) Specifies that the revenues from fees for temporary licenses issued by the California Board of Accountancy shall be credited to the Accountancy Fund.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Estimated cost to the Board of Pharmacy of \$150,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2021-22, and \$142,000 (special funds) in FY 2022-23 for one position to develop and promulgate regulations, update application forms, develop internal processes, partner and with OIS on programming changes and testing, developing education and outreach materials among other activities. The board indicates, depending on the workload generated, the position may need to be permanent.
- 2) Estimated costs to the Board of Psychology of \$125,000 in FY 2020-21, and \$117,000 (special funds) ongoing for one position to implement the provisions of the bill and review and approve applications within 30 days of receiving required documentation. The board anticipates a significant volume of applications per year.
- 3) Estimated costs to the Dental Hygiene Board of \$125,000 in FY 2020-21, and \$117,000 (special funds) ongoing for one position to implement the provisions of the bill and review and approve applications within 30 days of receiving required documentation. The board anticipates a significant volume of applications per year.
- 4) Minor and absorbable costs for the remaining boards.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill seeks to expand economic opportunities to military spouses by adding additional boards to the list of those required to grant temporary professional licenses to a qualified spouse or a domestic partner of an active duty military member.
- 2) **Background.** Existing law provides several accommodations of both military family and veteran license applicants. Boards are required to inquire about the military status of each applicant so that military experience may be applied toward licensure training requirements. Boards are also required to expedite licensure for military veterans as well as the spouses and partners of active duty military.

Existing law also requires temporary licenses be provided by eight boards in a handful of occupations and professions, including primarily healthcare professions and engineering, to military spouses and partners who hold similar licenses in other states and meet certain requirements similar to the ones in this bill. Temporary licenses expire 12 months after they are issued.

Temporary licenses are typically issued to applicants seeking licensure within a professional occupation who are able to immediately demonstrate meeting some of the qualifications required for licensure. This allows them to practice while the remainder of the qualifications are obtained or verified. For example, applicants who hold an active professional license in another state and have passed a national licensing examination may still have educational requirements to meet in order to become licensed in California.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 2045 (Gray), of this legislative session, requires certain regulatory boards to grant licenses to an applicant who is either a veteran or the spouse or partner of an active-duty member of the armed forces if the applicant holds a qualified license in another state. AB 3045 is pending hearing in this committee.
- 4) **Prior Legislation.**

AB 186 (Maienschein), Chapter 640, Statutes of 2014, requires specified boards under the DCA to issue a temporary license to practice up to 12 months to the spouse or domestic partner of a military member on active duty and who is licensed in another state if they meet certain requirements.

SB 1226 (Correa), Chapter 657, Statutes of 2014, requires DCA to expedite applications from honorable discharged veterans and allows in-lieu course requirements for private security officers.

AB 1904 (Block), Chapter 399, Statutes of 2012, requires a board under DCA to issue an expedited license to the spouse or domestic partner of a military member on active duty.

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