



SENATE BILL 1692

By Massey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 58; Title 62; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to
military family occupational licensing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, is amended by adding the following
as a new chapter:

58-10-101. Short title.

This chapter is known and may be cited as the "Military Families Licensing
Recognition Act."

58-10-102. Chapter definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Lawful occupation" or "occupation" means a course of conduct,
pursuit, or profession that includes the sale of goods or services that are not
themselves illegal to sell irrespective of whether the individual selling them is
subject to an occupational regulation;

(2) "Military" means the armed forces of the United States, including the
air force, army, coast guard, marine corps, navy, space force, national guard,
and all reserve components and auxiliaries, including the reserves and militia of
any United States territory or state;

(3) "Occupational license" means a governmental authorization that
allows an individual to engage in a lawful occupation, including a military
occupational specialty, and other forms of government certification required to
work legally in a lawful occupation;

(4) "Occupational licensing board" or "board" means this state, an agency, board, department, or unit of this state, or a subdivision of this state that regulates a lawful occupation and issues an occupational license to an individual;

(5) "Person" means an active or retired member of the military, or a person who is married to or is a dependent of an active or retired member of the military; and

(6) "Scope of practice" means the procedures, actions, processes, and work that a person may perform under an occupational license issued in this state.

58-10-103. Recognition.

(a) Notwithstanding another law, an occupational licensing board shall issue an occupational license in the occupation applied for and at the same practice level, as determined by the board, to a person who pays all applicable fees and applies on a form established by the board. The form must require the person to swear or affirm, under penalties of perjury, that the person meets the following requirements:

(1) The person holds a current and valid occupational license issued by another state or the military in an occupation with a similar scope of practice;

(2) The person has held the occupational license in good standing for at least one (1) year;

(3) The person was required to meet education, training, or experience standards, or to pass an examination to qualify for the occupational license;

(4) The person does not have a disqualifying criminal record under this state's law for the license;

(5) The person's occupational license was not revoked because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the person's work in the occupation in any state or the military;

(6) The person did not surrender an occupational license because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the person's work in the occupation in any state or the military; and

(7) The person does not have a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending that relates to unprofessional conduct or an alleged crime. If the person has a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending, the board in this state shall not issue or deny an occupational license to the person until the complaint, allegation, or investigation is resolved, or the person otherwise satisfies the criteria for licensure in this state to the satisfaction of the board in this state.

(b) The board shall issue an occupational license in the occupation applied for and at the same practice level, as determined by the board, to a person who pays all applicable fees and applies on a form established by the board. The form must require the person to swear or affirm, under penalties of perjury, that the person meets the following requirements:

(1) The person has worked for at least three (3) years in the lawful occupation; and

(2) The person satisfies subdivisions (a)(4)-(7).

58-10-104. License decision.

(a) An occupational licensing board shall issue an occupational license within ten (10) business days after receiving the application.

(b) The board must develop criteria to investigate and verify the accuracy of all of the applications it receives prior to the board's issuance of a license.

(c) If, upon further investigation, the board finds the sworn statement included in a person's application is invalid and gives notice to the person in accordance with the board's rules, the board may order the person to cease working. The board may report a perjurious application to the attorney general and reporter for possible prosecution.

58-10-105. State laws and jurisdiction.

A person who obtains an occupational license pursuant to this chapter is subject to the laws regulating the occupation in this state and the jurisdiction of the applicable board in this state.

58-10-106. Limitations.

(a) An occupational license issued pursuant to this chapter is valid only in this state. An occupational license does not make the person eligible to work in another state under an interstate compact or reciprocity agreement unless otherwise provided in law.

(b) This chapter does not:

(1) Prohibit a person from applying for an occupational license under another law of this state;

(2) Prevent this state from entering into a licensing compact or reciprocity agreement with another state or foreign country;

(3) Prevent this state from recognizing occupational credentials issued by a private certification organization, international organization, or other entity;

(4) Apply to an occupation regulated by the state supreme court; or

(5) Require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual.

58-10-107. Notice.

A board shall display prominently the following on its website, applications, and related communications:

Pursuant to the Military Families Licensing Recognition Act, active and retired military personnel and their families may qualify for an occupational license based on an occupational specialty, license, and work experience in the military or other states.

SECTION 2. The headings in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.

Amendment No. 1 to SB1692

Bailey
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1692

House Bill No. 1677*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, is amended by adding the following as a new chapter:

58-10-101. Short title.

This chapter is known and may be cited as the "Military Families Licensing Recognition Act."

58-10-102. Chapter definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Covered license" means a professional or occupational license that, with respect to a scope of practice:

(A) Is in good standing with the licensing authority that issued the license;

(B) Has not been revoked or had discipline imposed by any state;

(C) Does not have an investigation relating to unprofessional conduct pending in any state relating to the license; and

(D) Has not been voluntarily surrendered while under investigation for unprofessional conduct in any state;

(2) "License" means any license, certificate, or other evidence of qualification that an individual is required to obtain before the individual may engage in, or represent oneself to be a member of, a particular profession;

(3) "Licensing authority" means any state board, commission, department, or agency that is:

(A) Established in the state for the primary purpose of regulating the entry of persons into, or the conduct of persons within, a particular profession; and

(B) Authorized to issue licenses;

(4) "Military orders" has the same meaning as defined in 50 U.S.C. § 3955;

(5) "Scope of practice" means the defined parameters of various duties or services that may be provided by an individual under a license; and

(6) "Service member" has the same meaning as servicemember, as defined in 50 U.S.C. § 3911.

58-10-103. Recognition.

Notwithstanding another law, a licensing authority in this state shall recognize a covered license issued by a licensing authority of another state that is held by a service member or spouse of a service member who relocates to this state pursuant to military orders received by the service member or who relocates to a state contiguous with this state and desires to work within this state, upon approval of the service member's or spouse's application for license recognition in accordance with § 58-10-104.

58-10-104. Application for license recognition.

(a) A service member or service member's spouse who holds a covered license may apply for recognition of the service member's or spouse's covered license in this state by submitting an application to the appropriate licensing authority that includes:

(1) Proof of military orders or other official documentation of the service member's military orders, including an electronic communication, memorandum, or similar official record;

(2) If the applicant is the spouse of a service member, a copy of the marriage certificate or a copy of the applicant's uniformed services identification (USID) card;

(3) A notarized affidavit affirming, under penalty of perjury, that:

(A) The applicant is the person described and identified in the application;

(B) All statements made in the application are true, correct, and complete;

(C) The applicant has read and understands the requirements to receive a license and the scope of practice of such license in this state;

(D) The applicant certifies that the applicant meets and agrees to comply with the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(C); and

(E) The applicant is in good standing in all states in which the applicant holds or has held a license.

(b) A licensing authority that receives an application for recognition of a covered license may require an applicant to submit to a background check.

58-10-105. State laws and jurisdiction.

A person whose covered license is recognized pursuant to this chapter is subject to the laws regulating the profession in this state and the jurisdiction of the applicable board in this state.

58-10-106. Limitations.

This chapter does not:

(1) Prohibit a person from applying for a professional license under another law of this state;

(2) Prevent this state from entering into a licensing compact or reciprocity agreement with another state or foreign country;

- (3) Prevent this state from recognizing occupational credentials issued by a private certification organization, international organization, or other entity;
- (4) Apply to an occupation regulated by the state supreme court;
- (5) Apply to an occupational license under title 38; or
- (6) Require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual.

58-10-107. Notice.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), each licensing authority shall display prominently the following on its website, applications, and related communications:

Pursuant to the Military Families Licensing Recognition Act, active and retired military service members and their spouses may qualify for in-state recognition of a professional license issued in another state.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to the license applications of a licensing authority under title 48.

58-10-108. Validity of existing licensure pathways - Use of shortest licensure pathway.

(a) This chapter does not supersede, replace, or invalidate a process, procedure, rule, or policy that a licensing authority has previously adopted to recognize, endorse, expedite, or otherwise grant licensure or license recognition to service members or their spouses. A licensing authority may continue to utilize or administer such existing process.

(b) In determining whether to utilize the process provided under this chapter or an existing process, procedure, rule, or policy, a licensing authority must utilize the process, procedure, rule, or policy that will allow the service member or the spouse of the service member to obtain the license within the shortest amount of time. This chapter must not be construed to prohibit or otherwise prevent a service member or the spouse of a service member from utilizing the process, procedure, rule, or policy that will

allow a service member or the spouse of a service member to obtain a license in the shortest amount of time.

SECTION 2. The headings in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of rule promulgation, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.