

Chapter 177

(Senate Bill 280)

AN ACT concerning

Occupational and Professional Licensing – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Revisions to Reciprocity Requirements

FOR the purpose of altering the application requirements for a service member, veteran, or military spouse to apply for an occupational or professional license from a unit in the Maryland Department of Labor to require submission of proof that the applicant has held a certain license from another state for a certain period of time; requiring that each license held by a certain applicant that was issued in another state be in good standing; repealing a provision of law requiring a unit to make a certain determination regarding certain licensing requirements before issuing a certain license; altering the ~~authorization for a unit to~~ circumstances under which a unit may issue a temporary license to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who has held a certain license issued in another state for a certain period of time; and generally relating to occupational and professional licenses for service members, veterans, and military spouses.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Business Regulation
 Section 2.5–105 and 2.5–106
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Business Regulation

2.5–105.

(a) (1) Each unit shall issue an expedited license to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets the requirements of this section.

(2) If a service member, veteran, or military spouse meets the requirements for licensure, a unit shall issue the license within 60 days after receiving a completed application.

(b) An application for a license shall include the following, in the form and manner required by the unit:

(1) proof that the applicant is a service member, veteran, or military spouse;

(2) proof that:

(I) the applicant [holds] **HAS HELD** a valid license in good standing issued in another state **FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR; AND**

(II) EACH VALID LICENSE HELD BY THE APPLICANT ISSUED IN ANOTHER STATE IS IN GOOD STANDING;

(3) if the applicant is a service member or veteran, proof that the applicant is assigned to a duty station in the State or has established legal residence in the State;

(4) if the applicant is a military spouse, proof that the applicant's spouse is assigned to a duty station in the State or has established legal residence in the State;

(5) if a criminal background check is required by the unit for licensure, proof of application for a criminal background check;

(6) proof that the applicant has submitted the full application for licensure; and

(7) payment of any application fee required by the unit.

[(c) Before issuing a license under this section, the unit shall determine that the requirements for licensure in the other state are substantially equivalent to, or exceed the requirements for, licensure in this State.]

2.5-106.

(a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, a unit may issue a temporary license to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who [holds] **HAS HELD** a valid license in good standing issued in another state [for which the requirements for licensure are not substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this State] **FOR LESS THAN 1 YEAR, PROVIDED THAT EACH VALID LICENSE HELD BY THE SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN, OR MILITARY SPOUSE IS IN GOOD STANDING.**

(b) A temporary license issued under this section authorizes the service member, veteran, or military spouse, for a limited period of time, as determined by the unit, to perform services regulated by the unit while the service member, veteran, or military spouse completes additional requirements for licensure in this State.

(c) A unit may not issue a license under this section if issuance of the license would pose a risk to public health, welfare, or safety.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.