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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

HB 349 Occupational and Professional Licensing - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Revisions to Reciprocity Requirements

**House Economic Matters Committee
February 11, 2020**

**Ali Keane, Deputy Legislative Officer, Governor's Legislative Office
Tiffany Robinson, Secretary, Maryland Department of Labor**

House Bill 349 provides licensing reciprocity for professions overseen by the Maryland Department of Labor (Department) to service members, veterans, and military spouses if an applicant has maintained a corresponding license in another state for one (1) year in good standing.

Maryland is home to approximately 400,000 veterans, 29,509 active duty service members, and approximately 19,000 military spouses.¹ As of 2017, there are approximately 1.3 million active duty service members in the United States military and 18.2 million veterans.² Many of these individuals complete their military service, obtain professional licenses, and provide valuable services to consumers within Maryland and across the country.

House Bill 349 promotes the licensure of service members, veterans, and military spouses by providing an expedited pathway to licensed, sustainable employment in Maryland. Upon receipt of a completed application, which would include evidence that an applicant has held a corresponding license in another state in good standing for one (1) year, the Department would be required to issue a license to a qualified applicant within sixty (60) days.

Please note that, after receiving input from stakeholders, the Department is proposing an amendment that would require an applicant to be in good standing in every state that the applicant is licensed before receiving a license to practice in Maryland.

House Bill 349 will ease burdens on service members, veterans, and military spouses, and ensure that Maryland is a welcoming destination for military families. By requiring that applicants have held a corresponding license in good standing for one (1) year, House Bill 349 will also ensure that services provided by licensees meet Maryland's

¹ [2017 Annual Report, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs](#); see also the [Defense Manpower Data Center](#).

² [Department of Veterans Affairs Fast Facts, CNN Library](#); see also [Military Active Duty Personnel, Civilians by State, governing.com](#).



standards for consumer protection. **For the aforementioned reasons, the Administration and the Department respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee on Senate Bill 280.**

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 349
(FIRST READING FILE BILL)

On page 2, in line 9, strike “another state” and, beginning after “in” on line 9, insert **“OTHER STATES OF APPLICANT’S LICENSURE”**.

On page 2, in line 25, strike “another state” and, beginning after “in” on line 25, insert **“OTHER STATES OF APPLICANT’S LICENSURE”**.