



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1868

PRINTERS NO. 2228

PRIME SPONSOR: Mako

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
Professional Licensure Augmentation Account	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"
State Board of Medicine Restricted Account	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"
State Board of Osteopathic Medicine Restricted Account	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"
State Board of Podiatry Restricted Account	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"

**SUMMARY:** Amends Title 63 to add provisions relating to veterans' licensure. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation amends Title 63 to add a new chapter as follows:

**Representation on Licensing Boards:** The legislation directs the Governor to strive to increase the presence of veterans, service members and military spouses on licensing boards and commissions.

**Expedited Licensure:** The legislation requires a licensing board (board) to include a question on applications for licensure, renewal, and reactivation whether an applicant is a service member, veteran, or military spouse. Upon determination and submission of documentation, the board is required to expedite the processing of the application.

**Military Experience:** The legislation requires a board to issue a license to a qualified applicant who does not meet the educational requirements for the license so long as the qualified applicant:

- Submits an application and fee as prescribed by the board by regulation;
- Passes all exams required for licensure;
- Has completed a military program and was awarded a military occupational specialty;
- Performed in that occupational specialty at a level that is substantially equivalent to the academic requirements for the license that the qualified applicant applied;
- Has engaged in active practice for at least two of the previous five years before submitting the application. A qualified applicant's relevant military service experience of the qualified applicant's official duties must be credited in the calculation of the number of years the qualified applicant has practiced in the profession;
- Meets all other noneducational requirements for licensure.

**Expedited Temporary License:** The legislation requires a board to issue an expedited temporary license to a qualified applicant who meets the following criteria:

- Is a service member, veteran, or military spouse;
- Holds a valid license in good standing issued in another state;
- Is assigned to a duty station in this Commonwealth or has established legal residence in this Commonwealth;
- Has submitted a full application for licensure.

Prior to issuing an expedited temporary license to a qualified applicant, a board shall determine that the requirements for licensure in another state the qualified applicant is licensed are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements for licensure in this Commonwealth. A board may not issue an expedited temporary license if the issuance of the license poses a risk to public health, safety, or welfare.

**Relevant Military Experience:** The legislation requires a board to give credit for training and education provided by the military and completed by a qualified applicant toward training or education requirements for licensure, if the training or education is determined by a board to be substantially equivalent to the training or education required for licensure in this Commonwealth.

The legislation also requires a board to use the Military Occupational Codes Crosswalk to facilitate the acceptance of military practice or experience if training or education requirements for licensure are incomplete.

**License Renewal for Deployed Service Members:** Under the legislation, a service member who is scheduled to be deployed outside this Commonwealth may apply for renewal of a license if the deployment will occur when the license is eligible for renewal. The service member may submit to the board all requirements for renewal prior to deployment. Additionally, a board may renew a license of a service member after the expiration of the license without penalty if the late renewal is a direct result of deployment.

The legislation also permits a board to extend a continuing education requirement for up to three months after deployment of a service member if the service member meets all other requirements for license renewal.

**Fees:** A board may not assess a fee for an initial licensure of a military spouse who relocated to this Commonwealth as a result of the service member's military orders.

**Report:** The legislation requires the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to submit an annual report to the House and Senate oversight committees containing the following:

- The number of qualified applicants and the number who were approved for licensure;
- The number of qualified applicants who were denied licensure including data on the reasons for denial;
- Data on the licensing board's application processing times for qualified applicants including reasons for delays;

- Recommendations on ways to improve a board's ability to meet the licensing needs of service members, veterans, and military spouses

**FISCAL IMPACT:** According to the Department of State, they expect one-time costs of approximately \$150,000 for IT changes to the Pennsylvania Licensure System.

The legislation could also require the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to hire additional staff which would be dependent upon the additional amount of workload that could become necessary as a result of this legislation. It is important to note that any costs that could not be absorbed within existing appropriations would be offset by increasing fees on licensee registrations and renewals.

**PREPARED BY:** Tim Rodrigo  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** November 9, 2021

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*