



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1868

PRINTERS NO. 2652

PRIME SPONSOR: Mako

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2021/22 | FY 2022/23 |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| Professional Licensure Augmentation Account | \$0 | See "Fiscal Impact" |
| State Board of Medicine Restricted Account | \$0 | See "Fiscal Impact" |
| State Board of Osteopathic Medicine Restricted Account | \$0 | See "Fiscal Impact" |
| State Board of Podiatry Restricted Account | \$0 | See "Fiscal Impact" |

SUMMARY: Removes barriers to licensing and employment experienced by military servicemembers, veterans or military spouses. This legislation would take effect in 120 days.

ANALYSIS: The legislation amends Title 63 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to add a new Chapter 33 entitled "Military and Veterans' Licensure."

This chapter directs the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to give numerous considerations to "military applicants," a new term defined as a servicemember, veteran or military spouse who provides documentation of their military status when applying for licensure.

Expedited Licenses: For licensure, renewal and reactivation applications, the board must include a question asking whether an individual is a servicemember, veteran or military spouse. If they indicate in the affirmative, the bureau shall expedite the processing of the application.

Licensing Military Applicants: The boards may waive the educational requirements for licensure for military applicants if the applicants:

- Submit an application and fee;
- Pass all necessary exams;
- Have engaged in active practice for at least two of the last five years;
- Have achieved an equivalent experience and training according to the Military Occupational Codes Crosswalk; and
- Meet all other noneducational requirements.

Temporary License: A temporary license may be issued to a servicemember, veteran or military spouse while an application for licensure is being processed. BPOA shall develop criteria for a temporary license specific to military applicants under each licensing board.

The applicant must be assigned a duty station or have established a residence in this Commonwealth. The temporary license will be valid for six months or until the issuance or denial of a license, whichever is earlier.

Military Experience: When a board is calculating the years of practice or experience in an occupation, it shall give credit for any relevant experience obtained as a servicemember or veteran and give credit for any training and education that is determined to be substantially equivalent to that required for licensure. The boards are required to use the Military Occupational Codes Crosswalk to facilitate the acceptance of the military experience, training and education.

Deployment & Licensure Renewals: When a servicemember is scheduled for deployment during the same time as a renewal cycle, the servicemember may submit the renewal application to the board prior to the deployment even if it is prior to the opening of the renewal cycle. The board will review the application for completeness and must notify the servicemember of any discrepancies but may not process the renewal until the renewal cycle begins.

When a servicemember's license expires while they are deployed and the servicemember applies for reactivation of the expired license, the board may waive the penalty associated with the license being expired if the application is filed within one month of the end of the deployment.

A licensing board shall extend a continuing education (CE) requirement for up to six months after the end of the deployment if the servicemember meets all other requirements for licensure renewal.

This section also applies to military spouse if they resided with a deployed servicemember.

Fee Waiver: Initial licensure fees are waived for a military spouse who relocates to this Commonwealth as a result of a servicemember's military orders.

Reports: The bureau shall submit an annual report for six years to the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, the House Professional Licensure Committee and the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committees in the House and Senate containing the following information:

- The total number of applicants
- The number of approved and denied applicants (and reasons for denial)
- Processing times and reasons for delays
- Recommendations on ways to improve the board's ability to meet the military needs

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: June 30, 2022

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