

Taking Care of Our People

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE PORTABILITY

APRIL 1, 2025



THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH STATES AND WORK WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PROMOTE TIMELY AND EFFICIENT LICENSURE PORTABILITY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES RELOCATING DUE TO MILITARY ORDERS TO MAXIMIZE THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSE CONTINUITY.

FAST FACTS:

- › **WHAT IS IT?** This initiative directs the DOD to continue to collaborate with states and work with other federal agencies to promote licensure portability to maximize the benefits to service members and spouses. DOD will:
 - ›› Collaborate with state policy makers on best practices regarding licensure, such as ensuring timely licensure issuance within 30 days, reasonable paperwork requirements, and readily accessible licensing board information.
 - ›› Continue to advance licensure compacts as the priority to achieving licensure reciprocity for nationwide mobility.
- › **WHAT DOES IT DO?** On Jan. 5, 2023, the amendment to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act was signed into law. It requires that most professional licenses be portable, with the exception of licenses to practice law, for service members and their spouses as they change duty stations. This will reduce burdens on service members and help military spouses more easily obtain meaningful employment wherever they live.
- › **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** Both service members and spouses with a valid professional license who relocate their residence to accompany service members on orders. However, the law specifically excludes licenses to practice law from the definition of covered licenses.
- › **HOW DOES IT WORK?** When a service member or spouse relocates their residency due to military orders, this federal law requires the new state of residency to treat a covered professional license as valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for, subject to certain conditions. The license is considered valid for the duration of such military orders. As each state implements the new law, service members and spouses should contact the appropriate state offices with any questions about licensure portability or equivalency and consult applicable state websites for more information.
- › **WHAT HAPPENED TO COMPACTS?** The federal law expressly recognizes licensure compacts and gives them priority over the law's general provisions. The DOD will continue to work with the Council of State Governments to develop more licensing compacts and to work with states in support of new and existing compacts.