



## Key Message

Military spouses continue to report occupational licensure as a barrier to employment as they move across state lines. Approving occupational licensure compacts, improving application processes and implementing the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act are steps states can take to help military spouses maintain professional and financial stability.

## Discussion Points

1. Occupational licensure compacts take precedence over the licensure portability provision of the federal law embodied in H.R. 7939. The Defense-State Liaison Office assists national organizations, state boards and member associations in educating legislators on the benefits of compacts to the military community.
  - Most compacts allow military spouses to designate a home state for their license, ensuring that a military spouse does not have to transfer a license with each military move.
  - Licensure compacts are developed through an extensive stakeholder-informed and consensus-based process from the existing policies across states. Compacts are specific to the needs of each profession.
  - Compacts preserve state sovereignty by establishing a framework for state-to-state cooperation. States determine and enforce the scope of practice and state regulations.
2. States can support military families by ensuring that information about licensure is easily accessible.
  - Military members and spouses have indicated that easy-to-find web-based licensure guidance that addresses the application process and military spouse provisions is key to maintaining licensure and employment.
  - State boards can further support military families by ensuring staff is knowledgeable about the laws and policies impacting military-affiliated applicants.
  - Applications identifying military affiliations can help agencies and boards implement supportive laws and policies.
3. States can support military members and spouses who are required or prefer to obtain a single-state license by issuing military-affiliated applicants a license within 30 days and requiring minimal initial paperwork in the application.



On Jan. 5, 2023, President Joe Biden signed into law the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (H.R. 7939). Section 19 contains the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act, which intends to provide for licensure portability among all 50 states for all service members and military spouse licensed professionals, except the practice of law.