

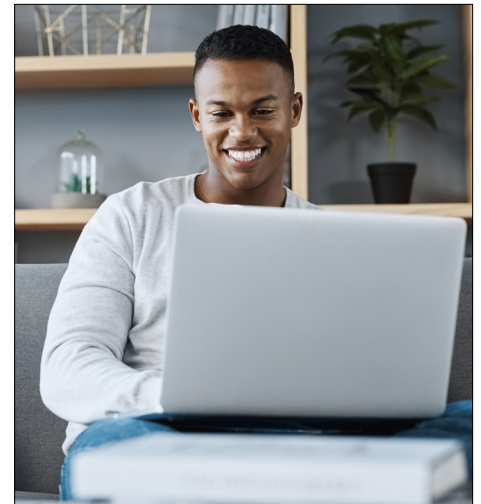


Key Message

States can support service members and their families by allowing them to remotely renew driver's licenses, vehicle registrations and state identifications when service members are serving out of state. This gives military families administrative flexibility while transitioning among duty assignments.

Discussion Points

1. Maintaining a driver's license is necessary for establishing a state of legal residence, which is important for service members and their families. It also helps them be able to stabilize jurisdictionally controlled issues, such as voting, filing joint taxes and maintaining state education/medical benefits.
2. Service members and their families receive permanent change of station orders as frequently as every two to three years, complicating transitions and integrations to new states.
3. Due to significant changes in duty stations that can often involve service abroad, service members and their families often have a state of residence listed that does not match their tour of duty. Service members and their families cannot reasonably travel back and forth to their registered state of residence for in-person registration and renewal requirements without incurring significant travel costs, consuming valuable vacation time or missing school days.
4. Additionally, the National Guard and reserves are typically activated on short notice and serve for extended periods, allowing licenses and registrations to potentially expire before they return home.
5. States could support service members and their families who are completing multiple assignments out of state/country by modifying their laws to extend expirations and to enable renewals of activated driver's licenses and vehicle registrations.



Thirty-six states offer extensions to keep driver's licenses active for residents who are serving in the military. Additionally, some states offer opportunities for service members and their families to remotely renew driver's licenses and automobile registrations.