

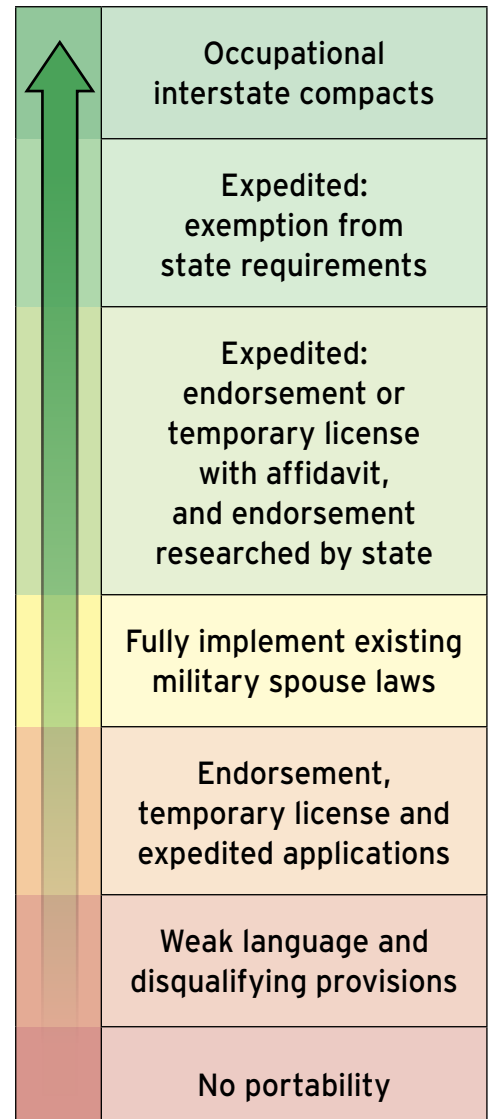


# Enhanced Military Spouse License Portability

**State-specific laws are important to reducing the burden associated with the occupational relicensing of military spouses.**

## Discussion Points:

- From 2011-16, states passed laws to revise work-related licensing for military spouses. But often these laws did not reduce the burden of relicensing for spouses moving to a new state. Many provisions include evaluations that require military spouses to request transcripts, test scores, practicum hours, previous licenses and work experience be sent to verify their application.
- States are continuing to make it easier to use a license in good standing from another state to get a new license. Specific ways states can ease the burden associated with relicensing can include:
  - Exempting the military spouse from state-specific requirements
  - Providing a temporary or permanent license based on an application and an affidavit and requiring the verifying documents be submitted by a specific date
  - Requiring the board to research and adjudicate a licensing request based simply on the application
- The desired outcome is to provide the military spouse with a license (temporary or permanent) within 30 days of application, based on an application and initial submission of minimal documentation.
- The Department of Defense encourages states to approve compacts, but also understands that compacts take time to achieve coverage for each occupation.



*\*As baseline: license in 30 days with submission of minimal documentation*

*This chart shows the relative degree of reciprocity, from full reciprocity through compacts between states (in dark green) to no portability (in red).*

**The annual percent of the military spouse population that moves across state lines is 14.5% – compared to 1.1% for civilian spouses. As much as 34% of military spouses in the labor force are required to be fully licensed; and of those spouses, 19% experience challenges maintaining their licenses.**