

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 687

(Senator Peters)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

**Militia - Employment for Military Spouses - Teachers, Health Care Practitioners,
and Individuals in Business Occupations and Professions**

This bill requires the Adjutant General of the Maryland Military Department or the Adjutant General's designee to assist the spouse of a member of the military who resides in the State or is transferred to the State in finding employment in Maryland upon request.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must develop an informational form that lists and explains the various paths that can be taken in order to obtain certification and tenure in the State and must post the form on its website.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Adjutant General or the Adjutant General's designee can provide the specified employment information to military spouses using existing resources. If they have not already done so, the relevant State agencies can post the required employment information to their websites using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The assistance provided by the Adjutant General or the Adjutant General's designee may include providing:

- the informational form developed by MSDE that lists and explains the various paths that can be taken in order to obtain certification and tenure in the State;
- information relating to health occupations in the State that permit reciprocal licensure; and
- information relating to business occupations in the State that permit reciprocal licensure.

Current Law/Background: The Adjutant General is the head of the Maryland Military Department. The Adjutant General is not specifically charged with aiding the spouses of members of the military.

In order to address an excess capacity of military facilities, the U.S. Congress created a process in 1990 known as Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The most recent round of plans regarding military installations nationwide became effective in November 2005.

The 2005 BRAC plans impact many of the federal military installations in the State, resulting in about 20,000 direct new jobs and placing Maryland among the largest beneficiaries nationally. These changes at each of the State's installations are expected to be phased in over a five- to six-year period. Gains are primarily expected at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Andrews Air Force Base, Fort Meade, and the National Naval Medical Center. Most of these jobs are projected to be medical professionals, engineers, and managers. In addition, many more indirect jobs will be created through contractors and related services. It is estimated that Maryland will gain approximately 28,000 households by the time the BRAC process is complete.

Chapter 731 of 2009 exempts individuals licensed as stationary engineers; plumbers; gas fitters; and heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) contractors in specified jurisdictions outside the State from Maryland's licensing examinations in those trades, if these individuals have relocated to the State because of a family member's reassignment due to the BRAC process. The request for a waiver must be made before July 1, 2012.

There are 18 health occupations boards in Maryland, several of which offer a special pathway to licensure for health care professionals from other states through "licensure by reciprocity" or "licensure by waiver." These boards include Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists; Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners; Dental Examiners; Professional Counselors and Therapists; Examiners of Psychologists; and Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators. Licensure requirements for the various health occupations boards are included on the appropriate subpage of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's website.

The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing within the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) licenses, regulates, and monitors various professions and trades in the State through regulatory boards and commissions, or other programs. The DLLR website – under the appropriate subpage for a given profession – includes information for individuals who wish to become licensed by reciprocity based on out-of-state qualifications and experience. Architects, electricians, and plumbers are among those who may gain licensure by reciprocity in the State. Professional boards under other State agencies, such as the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Maryland Department of Agriculture) and the boards of Environmental Sanitarians and Well Drillers (Maryland Department of the Environment) also offer at least limited provisions for reciprocity such as waiver of an examination.

Similarly, the State Superintendent of Schools may make an agreement with the appropriate educational authority of any other state to provide for reciprocity in the certification of teachers. The State Superintendent may accept the accreditation for certification purposes of a program for teacher preparation if the accreditation is granted by a recognized national accrediting agency and the institution preparing the teachers is in another state. MSDE reports that its website currently has a section dedicated to BRAC and military families, which includes a link with information on teacher certification.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 998 (Delegate Valentino-Smith, *et al.*) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Military Department; Maryland Association of Boards of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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