

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 852

(Senator Griffith, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation - Veterans and Military Service
Members and Spouses - Occupational Licenses

This bill requires the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) to issue an expedited license to an eligible service member, veteran, or military spouse, as defined, within 60 days after receiving a completed application. The definitions of veteran and military spouse are altered to remove specified time limitations. DLLR and its occupational and professional licensing units must prominently publish the time period established under the bill on their respective websites, in addition to other related information.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Requiring DLLR to issue expedited licenses within 60 days generally conforms to DLLR's existing practices. The bill does not otherwise materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Chapters 154 and 155 of 2013 (the Veterans Full Employment Act) facilitated professional licensing for active military personnel, veterans, and their spouses. The Act applies to the State's major licensing agencies. DLLR's Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing issues most of the State's nonhealth professional licenses.

Under current law, a “service member” means an individual who is an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces, a reserve component of the Armed Forces, or the national guard of any state. A “veteran” is defined as a former service member who was discharged from active duty under circumstances other than dishonorable within one year before the date on which an application for licensure, registration, or certification is submitted; it does not include an individual who has completed active duty and has been discharged for more than one year before the application for licensure is submitted. A “military spouse” means the spouse of a service member or veteran and includes a surviving spouse of a veteran service member who died within one year before a license or certificate application is submitted. These terms are separately defined for each major licensing agency. The bill changes the definition of “veteran” so that it includes any former service member discharged under circumstances other than dishonorable, regardless of how much time has passed since discharge. It also changes the definition of “military spouse” to include any surviving spouse of a deceased service member, regardless of when the service member died.

Under the Act, occupational and professional licensing units within DLLR must issue expedited *temporary* licenses, registrations, or certificates to military service members, veterans, and military spouses if specified education, training, and experience conditions are met.

Each licensing unit must publish on its website details of the expedited processes established under the Act, and each may adopt implementing regulations.

Background: Notwithstanding the information publicly available on DLLR’s [website](#), including a downloadable “Application for Temporary License” form, the department advises that the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing does not issue temporary licenses, because standard licenses are typically issued within two weeks of the receipt of a completed application and/or the passing of an exam.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1386 (Delegate Charles) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

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