



**House Bill 349 – Occupational and Professional Licensing – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Revisions to Reciprocity Requirements**

**Position: Support with Amendment**

The Maryland REALTORS® supports HB 349 which makes changes to a law passed last year allowing services members, veterans and their spouses to apply for a state license issued by the Department of Labor.

The goal of HB 349 is to ensure that military families can still pursue their profession when moving to Maryland. HB 349 makes two significant changes to last year's law. First, it removes the requirement that a licensee from another state hold a license that is "substantially equivalent" to the license issued in Maryland. Second, the bill removes the requirement the license applicant currently hold a license from the other state and would instead require that the licensee have HELD a license for at least a year in another state.

While the Maryland REALTORS® understands the desire to ensure a smooth process for a license applicant, it recommends clarifying that a licensee has held a license in another state within the last few years. As drafted HB 349 would permit an applicant whose license expired over twenty years ago to receive a permanent license here.

With that change, the Maryland REALTORS® recommends a favorable report.

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