



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

DATE: January 30, 2024
BILL NO: Senate Bill 3
BILL TITLE: Health Occupations – Service Members – Veterans and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 3 – Health Occupations – Service Members – Veterans and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 3 requires health occupation licensing boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration or permit to a service member, veteran or military spouse who holds a license in good standing in another state for at least one year. The bills also requires the Department of Health to prominently display temporary licensure application information on their website and requires a report from the Department regarding the processing of licensing applications from military service members, military spouses and veterans from the preceding 12 month period.

Background:

Twenty health occupation boards share responsibility for licensing health practitioners in Maryland. With a few exceptions, an individual must be licensed, certified, registered or permitted by the respective health occupation board before practicing in the State. Requirements for licensure, certification, registration and permitting vary by profession but typically require a combination of approved education, experience, examination and a criminal history background check.

Rationale:

Passage of this bill will allow Maryland to meet the qualifications and definition of a military family-friendly state within the Department of Defense's (DoD) Support of Military Families scorecard for states. These scorecards factor into future DoD basing decisions. The economic impact of Maryland's military installations in FY21 was \$61.4B in payroll and expenditures. With 72% of military families living off-base in our communities, this bill will allow not only the ease of military families gaining employment but also contributing to the overall quality of life for all Marylanders by increasing the availability of health occupational workers in our communities.

In addition to license portability, DoD also strongly encourages states to adopt interstate compacts for occupational licensure. Maryland has adopted seven of the nine interstate licensure compacts related to health occupations. The EMS and the Advanced Practice Medical Nurse

compacts are the remaining ones in need of adoption. In 2024, additional interstate licensure compacts for health occupations will be introduced to include dietitians, school psychologists and respiratory therapists. Passage of SB 3 will allow for a more straightforward adoption of these interstate compacts.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 3.