

20240130_MCFP_AM_Support_SB3_Portability_v2.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher Arnold

Position: FAV



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

January 30, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Committee on Education, Energy & The Environment
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

Remarks of
Christopher R. Arnold
Mid-Atlantic Region Liaison
United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office

Support of: SB 3 – AN ACT concerning Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Testimony

The Department of Defense is grateful for the opportunity to support policy changes proposed in Maryland Senate Bill 3, which addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families. This legislation would require health occupations boards to issue a temporary expedited license, certificate, or registration to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meet certain requirements, within fifteen days.

My name is Christopher Arnold. I am the Mid-Atlantic region liaison at the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. We represent the Department and establish relationships with state leaders across the country who are concerned for troops and their families' welfare by harmonizing state and federal law and regulation on policy problems of national significance. These are identified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, and the National Guard Bureau as areas where states can play a crucial role.

As part of these efforts, Maryland worked with the Defense-State Liaison Office to enact Chapters 154 and 155 of 2013, the "Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013," regarding Service member licensure and credit for military training and education as well as expediting military spouse license applications.¹ However, these methods have proven insufficient to address the underlying concerns of military spouses.²

The Department encourages States to engage in immediate actions to fully implement military spouse licensure laws and make them accessible; near-term actions to at least attain a baseline of

¹ Fiscal and Policy Note (Senate Bill 3). Department of Legislative Services, Maryland General Assembly. 2024 Session. https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2024RS/fnotes/bil_0003/sb0003.pdf

² Clearinghouse for Military Families at Pennsylvania State University. *Military Spouse License Portability Assessment (Maryland)*. January 2022. https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/mslp/state-findings/mslp_maryland.pdf

getting military spouses a license in 30 days based on minimal documentation, and removing substantially equivalent language; and long-term solutions for reciprocity through compacts.

In January of 2023, the President signed into law an amendment to Title VII of the Service Member's Civil Relief Act, which required that when "In any case in which a servicemember or the spouse of a servicemember has a covered license and such servicemember or spouse relocates his or her residency because of military orders for military service to a location that is not in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such military orders."³

While Maryland's licensing agencies are now required to recognize out-of-state licenses as valid for the duration of a military spouse's residency due to military orders, Maryland employers are not.⁴ States have now begun addressing provisions needed to implement these changes to ensure issuance of a state license which employers may require, within the Department's baseline goal of 30 days, while ensuring full compliance with federal law.⁵

Senate Bill 3 achieves these aims, echoing the historic 2020 military spouse legislation by Senate President Ferguson which eased application requirements for a service member, veteran, or military spouse who applies for an occupational or professional license. The President's bill, Chap 177, enacted revisions to reciprocity requirements for occupations and professions regulated by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, removing the requirement for a substantial equivalency determination to guarantee license issuance within 30 days, with minimal documentation.

In a letter to former Governor Hogan accompanying the Secretary of Defense's 2019 report on military spouse licensure, the Department noted that "*Current law requires boards to evaluate the substantial equivalency of the applicant's application prior to issuing the temporary license, which likely requires the verifying documentation for the review. Limiting this requirement to issuance of the permanent license, or stipulating that the boards perform their initial due diligence using an application, and an affidavit, would limit the time and effort required of the military spouse applicant.*"⁶ While Chapter 177 addressed such recommendation, it did not apply to the health occupations. Senate Bill 3 makes similar improvements for occupations and professions governed by the health occupational boards.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and their spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. The Department has conducted extensive study of

³ Pub. L. No. 117-333.

⁴ Uniform Law Commission. *Recommendation of the Study Committee on Military Spouse Occupational Licensing*. October 2023.

⁵ Uniform Law Commission. *Occupational Licenses of Servicemembers and Military Spouses Committee*. January 2024. <https://www.uniformlaws.org/committees/community-home?CommunityKey=ba1ecc93-efe3-418d-95d5-018d1d2abaf8>

⁶ Department of Defense. *Military Spouse Licensure: State Best Practices and Strategies for Achieving Reciprocity*. November 2019. <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/military-spouse-licensure-report-2019.pdf>

licensing outcomes in Maryland and has presented testimony at various hearings of the General Assembly within the past three years, from service members and spouse physicians and nurses who experienced licensing delays in excess of nine months.⁷

The Department contracted with the Center for Research and Outreach (REACH) at the University of Minnesota, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service, to evaluate the outcome of DoD's 2011 – 2016 efforts to improve license reciprocity for service members and military spouses. The Center for REACH conducted a 50-State review of the laws enacted and an assessment of the approach taken by six occupational boards in each State to implement these laws.⁸

Recommendations for Maryland included passage of “*legislation that provides support for temporary licenses for military spouses licensed in another state as most boards do not offer a temporary license option for spouses.*”⁹

The Military Spouse License Portability Assessment was launched by the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Pennsylvania State University in 2021 to further inform the Department regarding amount of time it takes military spouses to obtain an occupational license when they have an inter-state relocation due to a Permanent Change of Station.¹⁰

Only one of the three Maryland health boards examined met the Department's baseline for military spouses to begin working within thirty days, and one board took over thirty days to process a license.¹¹

Under federal law, the military Departments are required to produce annual strategic basing scorecards, evaluating quality-of-life factors such as spouse licensure.¹² The Department of the Air Force evaluated Maryland “Amber” for seven of the nine occupations considered on its most recent assessment of the availability of license reciprocity.¹³

⁷ Joint Base Andrews Testimony for Maryland Bill SB 230. February 2022.

https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2022/che/1tj36TpAcvxySkDMCXa7yPRMScx5UNA5U.pdf

⁸ Six occupations reviewed: cosmetology, dental hygiene, massage therapy, mental health counseling, occupational therapy, and real estate.

⁹ Lynne M. Borden, PhD, Et al, “Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination,” Center for Research and Outreach, University of Minnesota, <https://reachmilitaryfamilies.umn.edu/research/document/13865>

¹⁰ “Military Spouse License Portability Assessment.” Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness.

<https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/mslp/>

¹¹ “Maryland.” Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness. https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/mslp/state-findings/mslp_maryland.pdf

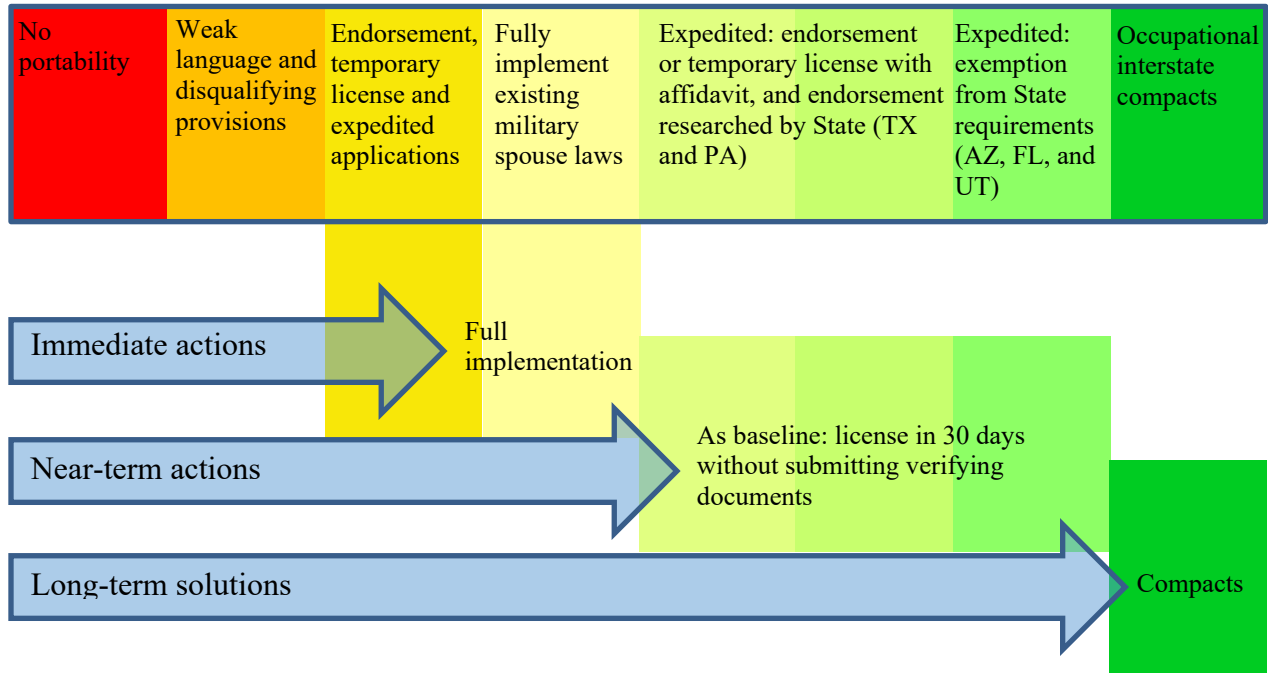
¹² Pub. L. 116–283, div. B, title XXVIII, §2883, Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4370, provided that the Department and each of the military services to produce annual basing decision scorecards at the state and installation level considering military family readiness issues, including interstate portability of licensure credentials.

The secretaries must consider “*whether the State in which an installation subject to a basing decision is or will be located ... has entered into reciprocity agreements to recognize and accept professional and occupational licensure and certification credentials granted by or in other States or allows for the transfer of such licenses and certifications granted by or in other States.*” (10 U.S. Code § 1781b)

¹³ Support of Military Families 2021. Department of the Air Force.

https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2021SAF/09_Sept/External_CASH_single_map_file_v4.2.pdf

Understanding that military spouses need assistance now, and that many States have already committed to a variety of approaches, the Department advocates that States should pursue multiple approaches to reciprocity simultaneously. Available alternatives can be categorized as being more immediately attainable, achievable within the near-term, or obtainable in the long-term:



How fast these actions and solutions can be approved and implemented is up to the States. The Department’s current evaluation of states, validated through the 2021 study conducted by Penn State University, indicates approximately 60 percent of states have achieved DoD criteria.¹⁴

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous efforts that Maryland has historically made to support our uniformed service members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the passage of the policies reflected in Senate Bill 3 and are especially grateful to Senator Jackson for introducing this important piece of legislation.

As always, as liaison to the Mid-Atlantic region, I stand ready to answer whatever questions you may have.

Yours etc.,

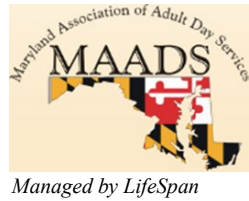
CHRISTOPHER R. ARNOLD
 Mid-Atlantic Region Liaison
 Defense-State Liaison Office

¹⁴ See *supra* at 7.

SB0003_FAV_LifeSpan, MAADS, MNCHA, HPCNM_Health Oc

Uploaded by: Danna Kauffman

Position: FAV



TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Michael A. Jackson

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: January 30, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 3 – *Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association, and the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland, we submit this joint letter of **support** for Senate Bil 3.

Senate Bill 3 requires each health occupations board to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets specified requirements outlined in the legislation. A health occupations board may apply to the Secretary of Health for approval of an alternative process for issuing a license, certificate, registration, or permit provided that the alternative process to obtain a license, certificate, registration, or permit in an expedited manner.

Demand for health care workers continues to outpace supply. Health care facilities not only compete for the same workers but also compete to recruit and retain workers from retail and other industries. Maryland must ensure that those who are qualified to work in health care are not prevented from doing so because of administrative challenges. Senate Bill 3 will be one additional tool to help build and stabilize Maryland's workforce and enable service members, veterans, and their spouses to find employment in Maryland without unreasonable delay. Therefore, the above organizations respectfully request a favorable report.

SB3.pdf

Uploaded by: James Campbell

Position: FAV



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm
facebook.com/aarpm

**SB3 Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses -
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
Senate Finance Committee
FAVORABLE
January 30, 2024**

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Jim Campbell, State President Emeritus of AARP Maryland, and former member of the Maryland House of Delegates. I am also representing AARP's veteran committee in support of SB 3. AARP Maryland thanks Senator Jackson for sponsoring this important legislation.

SB 3 requires health occupations boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements.

When military families are called on to relocate, which happens on average every two to three years, the effect on careers and income can be quite disruptive. This bill will help shorten the application process for qualified service members and their spouses to fifteen business days. Recognizing its importance, the Department of Defense has supported this type of legislation for the past decade.

SB 3 will benefit Maryland citizens by providing a potential pipeline for health care workers and others in critical needs areas. As the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) has noted, the state is experiencing a severe personnel shortage in nursing and behavioral health.

Nationwide, more than 6 million veterans belong to AARP. In Maryland, there are 180,000 members who have served our nation. The AARP Maryland veteran's committee is working with MMC and other similar organizations to support and improve the lives of those who have served our country.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB 3. If you have questions, please contact me tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.



SB 3- Health Occupations- Service Members- Letter

Uploaded by: Jane Krienke

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

January 30, 2024

To: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 3 – Health Occupations- Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Dear Chair Beidle:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association’s (MHA) 62 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 3.

Maryland hospitals continue to experience workforce shortages. The latest data show the positions with the highest vacancy rates in Maryland hospitals are:

- Surgical technicians, 17.8%
- Licensed practical nurses (LPN), 16.8%
- Nurse practitioners, 12.3%
- Registered nurses (RN), 12.1%

Vacancies for RNs vary by region. In Southern Maryland, for example, the vacancy rate is more than double the statewide rate—30.6%.

A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time RNs and 4,000 LPNs. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035. MHA’s [2022 State of Maryland’s Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future.

The report recommends Maryland leverage the state’s military bases by launching a “Green to Blue” campaign to help discharged and retired military personnel with caregiver experience work in hospitals. We must invite every qualified health care worker to join the workforce. This includes our service members who have valuable training and experience. Easing the transition to working in a civilian capacity would benefit the entire health care system.

The health occupations boards play an important role in supporting the health care workforce. It is important to implement process improvements that reduce the time needed to issue a license to a qualified health care worker. This bill could help ensure Maryland does not lose health care workers with valuable experience to neighboring states where there are fewer barriers for military service members and their spouses.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on SB 3.

For more information, please contact:

Jane Krienke, Senior Legislative Analyst, Government Affairs
Jkrienke@mhaonline.org

SB0003.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Jonathan Dayton

Position: FAV



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Pamela Beidle

January 29, 2024

Senate Bill 0003:

Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0003: Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

One of the largest barriers to the healthcare workforce is the delay of licensure. This bill allows our service members, veterans, and military spouses to expedite the process. According to Maryland Matters, "Maryland is currently short 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. If steps aren't taken to lure new workers and reduce the number of nurses leaving the profession, the state could see shortages two or three times larger than current levels by 2035, according to the report."

The bill requires each health occupations board to collect other data sets that can help identify other barriers. We urge a favorable report.

*On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,
Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director
jdayton@mdruralhealth.org*

HFAM Testimony SB 0003.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

January 30, 2024

Senate Bill 0003: Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses –
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 0003. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 0003 requires health occupations boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements; requires each health occupations board to include a check-off box prominently on each license, certification, or registration application form; requires the Maryland Department of Health to publish prominently on its website information about the expedited licensing process and any assistance provided.

HFAM has a long commitment to advocating for and supporting public policies that recognize the value that service members, veterans, and military spouses bring to the civilian workforce and Senate Bill 0003 could not come at a more critical time.

In Maryland and throughout the country, we are facing a shortage of healthcare workers across settings, with particularly fewer people working in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. Workforce recruitment and retention was a challenge before the pandemic and it has only grown more challenging. Tens of thousands of healthcare workers in Maryland have left the field over the last few years. Licensed healthcare professionals are scarce and all healthcare settings are competing for employees from the same labor pool. Veterans and their partners have the potential to be a tremendous resource in the healthcare workforce crisis we currently face.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 0003.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132

SB 3_Health Occupations Temporary Licensure_Support

Uploaded by: Kevin Anderson

Position: FAV



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.

SB3Jackson2024Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

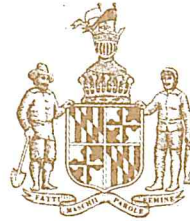
MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
Prince George's Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3700 · 301-858-3700
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 3

***HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS,
AND MILITARY SPOUSES – TEMPORARY LICENSURE,
CERTIFICATION, REGISTRATION, AND PERMITTING***

FINANCE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 30, 2024

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 3 is a straight-forward piece of legislation designed to get qualified individuals to work as quickly as possible in healthcare professions and to help our military community at the same time.

This bill would require each Maryland health occupations board to create an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration or permit for service members, their spouses and veterans who hold similar certifications in other states and who are going through the full application process for said positions in Maryland. This legislation would be applicable in numerous fields and help fill needs in a wide variety of critical healthcare professions including acupuncture, audiology, dentistry, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, general medicine, and social work.

The aim of this legislation is to create a mutually beneficial situation for both the State and for the military community whose service has brought them to Maryland.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 3.

11c - SB 3 - FIN - Boards - LOS-.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
Metro Executive Building
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 304
Baltimore, MD. 21215-2299

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 3 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses -
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle:

The Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) is submitting this letter of support for SB 3 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

The Board supports and addresses the needs of the military and their spouses in the Maryland Physical Therapy Act §13-313 Temporary license and COMAR 10.38.01 General Regulations.

Thank you for considering this testimony and the Board respectfully requests a favorable outcome of SB 3. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (410) 764-4718 or at laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,


Executive Director

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of support does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

2024 SB3 Opposition.pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: FWA



Opposition Statement SB3

Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses -
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant
Maryland Right to Life

Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment for SB3 so that the loosening of licensing requirements is not used to help further supply the abortion industry with their workforce. The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 removed a level of health and safety protection for pregnant women and girls of Maryland when the law removed the physician requirement for providing abortions. Maryland Right to Life opposes this further interference in the independent operations of health occupations boards and their authority over the licensing and regulation of their respective healthcare professionals. Independent boards for each healthcare occupation are essential to ensure that standards of medical care are maintained for the safety and wellbeing of Marylanders using the healthcare system. Medical standards must not be compromised for the convenience of those working in the healthcare system, even those connected to military service. Standards vary from state to state and every person practicing in Maryland should be held to the same practice and licensing standards.

The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 removed one of the few health and safety protections for pregnant women and girls in the Maryland Code which was the legal requirement that only licensed physicians provide abortions. The Act puts profits over patients and allows non-medical personnel to be licensed or certified by the state to provide surgical and chemical abortions up to birth. This law removes abortion from the spectrum of healthcare. Bill after bill in the Assembly shows a continued push to decrease the standards for licensing and certification of healthcare occupations making it easier to provide workers in the abortion industry. An individual with less medical education and medical training can be paid lower than more highly educated and trained healthcare practitioners such as doctors thus increasing the profit margin. This strategy puts the women and girls of Maryland at risk for substandard medical care which puts them at risk for injury up to and including death.

The loosening of licensing requirements is further erosion of the quality and safety of healthcare delivery. The state needs to promote best medical practice and allow the various health occupations boards to independently manage their infrastructure operations and examine the competency of their practitioners.

Maryland Right to Life urges the addition of an amendment to exclude this bill being used for abortion purposes. Without this amendment, we ask that you give an unfavorable report to **SB3**.

Nash MMC Oral Testimony SB 003_Favorable with amen

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FWA



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Statement of CAPT Lynn Nash
Maryland Military Coalition

SB 003 - Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary
Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
January 30, 2024

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I believe that this is the fourth time that I have come before a Senate Committee on this issue. On behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition as its Communications Director, I come before you in support of SB 003, Temporary Licensure for Service Members, Veterans and service spouses. For the record, my name is CAPT (R) Lynn Nash. I am a nurse. I started my uniformed services career as a military spouse, and then went on to serve for over 30 years on active duty in both the U.S. Army and Public Health Service.

SB 003 is a common-sense approach to protect the public, while at the same time relieving critical shortages across the spectrum of healthcare occupations. Those shortages are highest in nursing and behavioral health.

Here's some statistics that support why this bill is necessary:

- The average military family moves every 2-3 years. For military spouses, these frequent relocations mean major disruptions in their careers.
- Fifty percent (50%) of active-duty spouses work in fields that require an occupational license and each state and territory has its own process—that's 55 different sets of rules.
- Every time a service family moves, the spouse often spends thousands of hours (and \$\$\$) to continue their career. For me, last year it took me 140 days to re-activate my Maryland nursing license, and then it expired 6 weeks later and had to be renewed. The total cost for me was just shy of \$1,000 in addition to the cost of maintaining my home state license.
- The average time to look and find a job is 19 weeks.
- Unemployment rates for military spouse are 3 to 6 times greater than the national average, even though they often have more experience and education.
- The Department of Defense sees licensure as a MAJOR issue that negatively influences reenlistment decisions and the military's ability to recruit and retain service members.

1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 260 • Largo, Maryland 20774
(301) 583-8687 • (800) 808-4517

That is why **Department of Defense has supported similar legislation for over 16 years** because they see the portability of licensure as a *readiness* issue.

SB003 mitigates this licensure problem by creating an expedited process for service members, their spouses and veterans to get a professional license here in Maryland—in 15 business days. The applicant will be assigned an advisor to help them navigate the process, and the General Assembly will get a report each year on the processing of applications for our service-connected group. The cost is minimal and you will be improving the process for all licensure.

The Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) **strongly supports SB 003**, however we ask for **three amendments**:

- First, **remove the one-year application restriction for Veterans**, especially if you want to improve the number of available practitioners. I left service in 2019, which means that this legislation excludes many prior service veterans like me.
- Second, (d) (2). While the definition of service members is amended to include the Uniformed Services as defined by 10 U.S.C. § 101, the definition goes further to define reservists as a component of the **armed forces**. This excludes the five members of the U.S. Public Health Service's Ready Reserve. Please **change this definition of reservists to "the reserve component of the Uniformed Services"**.
- And finally, I ask that you consider requiring the establishment of **same day, walk-through, temporary licensing**, like five other states (Arizona, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri and South Carolina). The applicant walks in with their paperwork and walks out with a license and can start work the next day.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a non-partisan organization of 19 Veteran organizations representing over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families -- almost half of the 355,000 veterans in the State.

Thank you, Senator Jackson, for sponsoring this bill which will certainly help our service community.

Nash MMC Written Support of SB 003_Favorable with

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FWA



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office
Building 11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUBJECT: Request for Favorable Report with Amendment – SB003, Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition, I am writing in support of SB 003, Temporary Licensure for Health Occupations. For the record, my name is CAPT(R) Lynn Nash. I am a nurse and the Communications Director for the Coalition. I started my uniformed services career as a military spouse, and then went on to serve for over 30 years on active duty in both the U.S. Army and Public Health Service.

As an expert, I would like to provide background on this bill.

- SB 003, creates a temporary, expedited licensure process for service members, veterans, or military spouses by utilizing a check-off box prominently displayed on the application.
- Each service member, veteran or military spouse will be assigned an advisor who will assist in the application process.
- The application will be expedited, and when the applicant meets the requirements for a license, certificate or registration, the board will issue it **within 15 business days**.
- And, the board is required beginning January 1, 2026, to report to the General Assembly on the processing of applications from service members, military spouses, and veterans for the immediately preceding 12-month period.

- Maryland has a **duty to protect** those who receive care. It does this through licensing.
- [Licensing](#) is the process to grant permission to an individual to engage in practice after determining that the applicant has attained the **competency necessary to perform a unique scope of practice**.
- According to the [Goldwater Institute](#), the average military family moves every 2-3 years. For military spouses, these frequent relocations mean major disruptions in their careers.
- The [Chamber of Commerce](#) reports that **67% of military spouses had to quit a job because their spouse received change-of-station orders**.

1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 260 • Largo, Maryland 20774
(301) 583-8687 • (800) 808-4517

- The [Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University](#) found that **50% of military spouses that work in fields that require occupational licenses.**
- In their report “Supporting our Military Families: Best Practices for Streamlining Occupational Licenses”, the Department of Labor and Defense estimate that unemployment rates for military spouse are **3 to 6 times greater than the national unemployment rate**, even though they **often have more experience and education.**
- To be eligible for employment, [military spouses in professions that require a license must navigate laws, policies, and regulations unique to each state.](#)
- Applying for a new license every time that you relocate, is a **burdensome, expensive process.**
- **In the health occupations**, because there are 50 states, the District of Columbia and four territories, **EACH of the 55 localities have THEIR OWN, unique Practice Act** which govern what a person can do and **EACH has DIFFERENT licensing process.**
- Navigating the [55 sets of requirements, rules, and fees](#), is a **SIGNIFICANT** challenge **especially as all are ALREADY LICENSED and in GOOD STANDING in another state.**
- As a result, the [Goldwater Institute](#) found that re-licensure hits military families who relocate so frequently **the hardest, ESPECIALLY HERE IN HIGH-COST-OF-LIVING MARYLAND**, where often both spouses need to work.
- The Department of Defense sees **licensure** as a **MAJOR issue** that negatively influences reenlistment decisions and the military's ability to recruit and retain service members. That is why [Defense has supported similar legislation for over 16 years](#) because they see the portability of licensure as a **readiness issue.**
- Every time a service family moves, **the spouse often spends thousands of hours (and \$\$\$) to continue their career.**
- To apply for a license, the service member or spouse must:
 - Have a **valid license in another state that they have held for at least 1 year;**
 - Provide proof that EACH license held is valid, in good standing and has substantially similar qualifications;
 - **Remain in good standing** with the licensing authority that issued the previous license, and with every other licensing authority that has issued a license with a similar scope of practice to that person; **good standing = no complaints; and being active within 2 prior years;**
 - Provide a copy of the military orders to the new jurisdiction's licensing authority;
 - Complete an application and provide fingerprints and photos—this has an additional cost;
 - Submit to a national criminal history records check;
 - Agree to abide by the rules of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction in terms of standards of practice, discipline and meeting any continuing education requirements
 - And, provide proof that they have submitted a complete application and paid all fees.
- Validation of the documentation **can be accomplished in real time, at no cost, over secure connections.**
- Yet, Professional Boards cannot process licensure request in a timely manner. Our own [Maryland Board of Nursing website](#) states: the **“Board of Nursing continues to experience delays in processing initial and renewal applications for licensure and certification due to information technology limitations, numerous vacant full-time positions, and decreased operational resources”.**
- Maryland is experiencing **a critical shortage across the spectrum of health occupations;** the two areas are in **nursing and behavioral health**

SB 003 - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure

- As I write this, we continue to be in the middle of respiratory virus season. Of the 19 Counties and the City of Baltimore, **12 of 19 counties have hospital bed occupancy rates that are above 90%; three at AT CAPACITY**; two counties have fewer than 60 beds total; and five have fewer than 100 beds.
- Often, it's not a shortage of beds geographically, but rather, **a function of short staffing**.

SB 003 mitigates these licensure problems by allowing for a temporary, expedited licensure process, something that Maryland gravely needs. This is ***DIFFERENT*** than a recently enacted policy of providing service members and military spouses with a letter of endorsement of their out-of-state license. When viewed by certifying agencies, such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, **a letter of endorsement does not equate to a license in that state**.

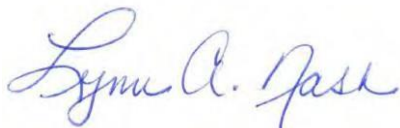
However, **the Coalition asks for three amendments**.

- First, remove the one-year application restriction for Veterans, especially if you want to improve the number of available practitioners. Last year I applied to re-instate my Maryland license, and it took me 140 days. I left service in 2019, which means that this legislation excludes many prior service veterans like me.
- Second, (d) (2). While the definition of service members is amended to include the Uniformed Services as defined by 10 U.S.C. § 101, the definition goes further to define reservists as a component of the **armed forces**. This excludes the five members of the U.S. Public Health Service's Ready Reserve. Please change this definition to "the reserve component of the Uniformed Services".
- And finally, that you **require the establishment of same day, walk-through, temporary licensing, like five other states** (Arizona, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri and South Carolina).

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 21 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. The Coalition ***strongly supports*** SB 003 and asks for **your favorable report with amendments**.

Thank you to Senator Jackson for sponsoring this important legislation and for amending the language in this year's bill to the more inclusive term of "uniformed service". Temporary licensure is one of our top 4 issues. We appreciate his leadership in this critical area and look forward to working with him on this issue. **We ask that you review the attached issue paper prior to your deliberation.**

Respectfully,



Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director
Maryland Military Coalition

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Steve P. May
American Military Society

Elwood R. Raphael Gray
American Minority Veterans Research Project

W. W. W.
Association of the United States Navy

Lynn A. Dask
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbur B. Fisher
Disabled American Veterans

Seldon H. Freedy
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Phyllis J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Seldon H. Freedy
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Brooker
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Emmett R. Robert
Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Robert F. Winton
Military Officers Association of America

Charles E. Spahr
Military Order of the Purple Heart

E. J.
Montford Point Marines of America

M. L. Meese
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

John S.
Reserve Organization of America

Catherine L. McGraw
Society of Military Widows

E. J.
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Veterans Affairs Directorate, NARFE MD

M. Blackwell
Veterans of Foreign Wars



Expedited Professional Licensure and Certification for Active Duty/Spouses/Veterans

- Maryland has a duty to protect those who receive services. It does this through licensing.
- **The Maryland Board of Nursing continues to experience delays in processing initial and renewal applications for licensure and certification due to information technology limitations, numerous vacant full-time positions, and decreased operational resources¹.**
- According to the 2021 Department of Defense Survey of Active-Duty Spouses²
 - 48% of respondents stated that finding employment was one of the most critical problems they experienced during PCS moves.
 - Uniformed Service spouses specifically reported difficulty transferring their professional licenses or certificates from one location to another, which often hinders their ability to find jobs in the new locations.
 - **the unemployment rate for uniformed spouses was 22% and that unemployed spouses actively seeking work spent an average of 19 weeks looking for employment.**
- The Department of Defense has supported similar legislation for over 16 years because they see the portability of licensure as a **readiness issue**.
- The President signed the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (HR7939), into federal law on January 5, 2023³. Section 705A of the Act, “Portability of Professional Licenses of Servicemembers and Their Spouses” addresses “covered licenses” and states that if a servicemember or spouse relocates his or her residency **because of military orders** for duty to a location that is not in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, **such covered license shall be considered valid** at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such military orders”. The law⁴:
 - Amends Title VII of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 4021 et seq.)
 - **Applies licensing reciprocity between states to all professions except the practice of law**
 - The spouse/service member must:
 - ✓ Provide a copy of the orders to the new jurisdiction’s licensing authority;

¹ Maryland Board of Nursing. Retrieved from <https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

² 2021 [DoD Survey of Active-Duty Spouses](#)

³ White House press release, January 5, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2023/01/05/press-release-bills-signed-h-r-680-h-r-897-h-r-1082-h-r-1154-h-r-1917-h-r-7939-s-450-s-989-s-1294-s-1402-s-1541-s-1942-s-2333-s-2834-s-3168-s-3308-s-3405-s-35/>

⁴ HR7939, Sec. 705A Portability of Professional Licenses of Servicemembers and Their Spouses. Retrieved from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/7939/text#toc-H2476EF49A12E4D2CA12A1A8F95F96E38>

Maryland Military Coalition – 2024 Issue Papers – Expedited Licensure

- ✓ Remain in good standing with the licensing authority that issued the previous license, and with every other licensing authority that has issued a license with a similar scope of practice to that person; good standing = no complaints; active within 2 prior years
 - ✓ Abide by the rules of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction in terms of standards of practice, discipline and meeting any continuing education requirements
 - ✓ Submits to the authority of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.
 - ✓ **NEW** language - If a licensure compact is in place, it takes precedence. 39 states and the Virgin Islands recognize nursing compact licenses. Other occupations have similar rates.
- July 13, 2023, the Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, sent a Notification Letter to State Licensing Authorities, to advise them of this requirement⁵.
 - The first test case of the new law was filed in Texas in July, by an Air Force spouse, a school counselor, who was denied licensure although she was already licensed in two other states⁶. However, the decision to deny her licensure was reversed on appeal⁷. No active-duty spouse should have to go through this level of effort, simply to work—especially as a school counselor.

The Maryland Military Coalition ***strongly supports expedited professional licensure and certification for Active Duty, Active-Duty Spouses and Veterans.***

⁵ [Department of Justice](#)

⁶ ["DOJ tells Texas to 'Stop Messin' with Military Spouse Job Licenses"](#)

⁷ [Final Judgement Hannah Magee Portee – Mike Morath \(W.D. Tex.\)](#)

Opposition To SB 3.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Doherty

Position: UNF



The Maryland State Dental Association Opposes SB 3 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Respectfully Submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on behalf of the Maryland State Dental Association

SB 3 would require expedited temporary licensure of service members, veterans and military spouses under the Maryland Dental Act. The MSDA opposes this proposed legislation as unneeded, and because its passage would allow dentists who are not qualified under current Maryland Law to treat Maryland patients.

Currently, Maryland Law provides an expedited licensure path for military members, veterans and military spouses (hereafter collectively referred to as “military”), which also assures that all military applicants satisfy all requirements for licensure before treating Maryland patients, a critical protection not provided by SB 3.

Section 1-701 – 706 of the Health Occupations Article provides for the expedited licensure of a service member, a military spouse, veteran and a surviving spouse of a veteran or a service member who dies within 1 year prior to application for an expedited license (collectively referred to as “Military Applicants”).

2. Each health occupation Board, including the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners:

a. shall assign to each military applicant an advisor to assist the applicant with the application process;

b. shall expedite the process for licensure;

c. If the military applicant meets the requirements for licensure, the board shall issue the license within 15 days after receiving a completed application.

d. If the board determines that the military applicant does not meet the education, training or experience requirements for licensure, the board shall assist the applicant in identifying programs that offer relevant education or training, or ways of obtaining needed experience.

the effect of passing SB 3 would be to allow those military applicants who do not meet the education, training or experience requirements to obtain a temporary license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene, and to immediately begin treating dental patients despite the deficiency in their qualifications. This is bad public health policy, and the safety of Maryland patients outweighs the desire to allow military personnel who are transferred into Maryland immediate licensure.

For these reasons the Maryland State Dental Association requests that SB 3 receive an unfavorable report.

**Submitted by:
Daniel T. Doherty, Jr.
January 30, 2024**

SB 3 - FIN - BOP - LOC.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Tran

Position: UNF



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB3
TITLE: Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Letter of Concern

TITLE: Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

BILL ANALYSIS:

SB3 requires certain health occupation boards to issue an expedited temporary license to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets specific requirements. The bill also permits a health occupations board to apply to the Secretary of Health for approval of an alternate process for licensure that does not meet specific requirements.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians, State Acupuncture Board, State Board of Dental Examiners, State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors, State Board of Pharmacy, State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, and the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Boards) are submitting this Letter of Concern for Senate Bill 3 Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting. The Boards support efforts to ease the licensure process for service members and their families. However, given recent changes to federal law and other efforts by the Boards to expedite licenses for service members, veterans, and military spouses, the Boards believe that temporary licenses are unnecessary and costly.

As part of the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, the Boards have developed procedures to expedite all licenses for service members, veterans, and spouses. In addition, many of the Boards have established other pathways for expedited licensure. For example, the Maryland Board of Physicians includes the following licensure pathways:

- Participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- Licensure by endorsement
- Licensure by reciprocity with Virginia and the District of Columbia

Additionally, the Maryland Board of Physicians has introduced online application processes and licensure by Uniform Application (UA) which allows physicians to apply for licensure in multiple

states simultaneously. The Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) has also been implemented to verify physician credentials. Efforts are also currently being made to fully transition to online applications for all practitioners licensed by the Maryland Board of Physicians for a more streamlined licensure process, and drafting of regulations to further support service members and their spouses, including fee reductions and deferments of continuing education requirements during deployment.

These processes are effective and work well to expedite such licensure. As a result, the Boards issue 99% of all licenses within ten days of receiving the last qualifying document.

While the intent of SB 3 is laudable, recent changes to federal law render it unnecessary. In January 2023, the Veterans Auto and Education Acts of 2022 went into effect. Under this law, military members and their spouses who relocate to Maryland and are in good standing with all applicable licensing authorities are exempt from Maryland's licensing requirements for the duration of their military orders. To comply with federal law, the Boards have established policies and procedures to provide letters of qualification to individuals practicing under this license exemption. This exemption to licensure will allow service members and their spouses to practice in Maryland without interruption and provide ample time to apply for an expedited license through the Boards, if desired, without needing a temporary license.

The majority of the Boards do not issue temporary licenses for any regulated practitioners. Issuing both temporary and full licenses will slow the process rather than expedite it. The expedited temporary license described in the bill creates a new license category for each health occupation and would require additional staffing and significant changes to the Boards' licensure and practitioner profile systems to implement. Moreover, introducing temporary licenses would not significantly reduce the time required to process and issue a license.

The Boards are happy to work with the sponsor and bill proponents to further improve the licensure process for service members, veterans, and military spouses. However, the Boards do not believe that the temporary licenses proposed in SB3 are the correct path.

For all of these reasons, the Board of Physicians, along with the State Acupuncture Board, State Board of Dental Examiners, State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors, State Board of Pharmacy, State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, and the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists respectfully requests that the Committee vote unfavorably on SB3.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact:

Matthew Dudzic
Manager, Policy and Legislation
Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-5042

Michael Tran
Health Policy Analyst
Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-3786

Lillian Reese
Legislative and Regulations Coordinator
Health Occupations Boards and Commissions
410-764-5978

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Singh Ajrawat".

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Boards expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.

11 a - SB 3 - FIN - BOP - LOC.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: UNF



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB3
TITLE: Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Letter of Concern

TITLE: Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

BILL ANALYSIS:

SB3 requires certain health occupation boards to issue an expedited temporary license to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets specific requirements. The bill also permits a health occupations board to apply to the Secretary of Health for approval of an alternate process for licensure that does not meet specific requirements.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians, State Acupuncture Board, State Board of Dental Examiners, State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors, State Board of Pharmacy, State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, and the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Boards) are submitting this Letter of Concern for Senate Bill 3 Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting. The Boards support efforts to ease the licensure process for service members and their families. However, given recent changes to federal law and other efforts by the Boards to expedite licenses for service members, veterans, and military spouses, the Boards believe that temporary licenses are unnecessary and costly.

As part of the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, the Boards have developed procedures to expedite all licenses for service members, veterans, and spouses. In addition, many of the Boards have established other pathways for expedited licensure. For example, the Maryland Board of Physicians includes the following licensure pathways:

- Participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- Licensure by endorsement
- Licensure by reciprocity with Virginia and the District of Columbia

Additionally, the Maryland Board of Physicians has introduced online application processes and licensure by Uniform Application (UA) which allows physicians to apply for licensure in multiple

states simultaneously. The Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) has also been implemented to verify physician credentials. Efforts are also currently being made to fully transition to online applications for all practitioners licensed by the Maryland Board of Physicians for a more streamlined licensure process, and drafting of regulations to further support service members and their spouses, including fee reductions and deferments of continuing education requirements during deployment.

These processes are effective and work well to expedite such licensure. As a result, the Boards issue 99% of all licenses within ten days of receiving the last qualifying document.

While the intent of SB 3 is laudable, recent changes to federal law render it unnecessary. In January 2023, the Veterans Auto and Education Acts of 2022 went into effect. Under this law, military members and their spouses who relocate to Maryland and are in good standing with all applicable licensing authorities are exempt from Maryland's licensing requirements for the duration of their military orders. To comply with federal law, the Boards have established policies and procedures to provide letters of qualification to individuals practicing under this license exemption. This exemption to licensure will allow service members and their spouses to practice in Maryland without interruption and provide ample time to apply for an expedited license through the Boards, if desired, without needing a temporary license.

The majority of the Boards do not issue temporary licenses for any regulated practitioners. Issuing both temporary and full licenses will slow the process rather than expedite it. The expedited temporary license described in the bill creates a new license category for each health occupation and would require additional staffing and significant changes to the Boards' licensure and practitioner profile systems to implement. Moreover, introducing temporary licenses would not significantly reduce the time required to process and issue a license.

The Boards are happy to work with the sponsor and bill proponents to further improve the licensure process for service members, veterans, and military spouses. However, the Boards do not believe that the temporary licenses proposed in SB3 are the correct path.

For all of these reasons, the Board of Physicians, along with the State Acupuncture Board, State Board of Dental Examiners, State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors, State Board of Pharmacy, State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, and the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists respectfully requests that the Committee vote unfavorably on SB3.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact:

Matthew Dudzic
Manager, Policy and Legislation
Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-5042

Michael Tran
Health Policy Analyst
Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-3786

Lillian Reese
Legislative and Regulations Coordinator
Health Occupations Boards and Commissions
410-764-5978

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Singh Ajrawat".

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Boards expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.

11b - SB 3 - FIN - MBON - LOI.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: INFO



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 0003 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 3 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting. This bill requires each health occupations board to issue an expedited temporary license or certificate to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements; requires each health occupations board to include a checkbox prominently on a license or certification application form; and requires the Maryland Department of Health to publish prominently certain information on its website.

Although the Board supports the efforts to ease the licensure and certification process for service members and their families, the principles of this bill are already covered under the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (VAEIA), which was signed into law on January 5, 2023, the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, and the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).

In order to comply with federal law and the NLC, the Board has established procedures for expediting the applications of military-affiliated individuals. For ease of navigation, licensure and certificate information for military-affiliated applicants can be found prominently displayed on the Board's website. Specifically, if a service member, veteran, or military spouse meets the requirements for a license or certificate, the Board will issue the license or certificate within 15 business days after receiving a completed application. For additional support, the Board also assigns advisors to assist applicants with the application process. The Board also complies with the federal law making valid a military member or spouse's license in a relocated jurisdiction for the duration of the relocation due to military orders. For servicemembers or spouses licensed through interstate licensure compacts, the servicemember or spouse would be subject to the requirements of the compact.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov, or call (410) 585 – 2049.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hicks", written in a cursive style.

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.