



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:
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January 30, 2024**