

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1162
Economic Matters

(Delegate Griffith, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Study on the Utilization of the Expedited Licensing Process for Service Members,
Veterans, and Military Spouses

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), to conduct a study on the utilization of the expedited licensing process for service members, veterans, and military spouses for licenses. By June 30, 2024, MDL, in consultation with MDVA, must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDL (along with MDVA) can conduct the required study using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The study must include information on:

- the number of service members, veterans, and military spouses that have used the expedited process and have had credit for military experience, education, or training applied to those license requirements;
- the type of experience, education, and training for which credit may be given toward experience, training, or education requirements for licensure;
- sample application forms, as specified;

- existing and potential outreach activities and publications relating to Maryland's expedited licensing process;
- suggested best practices for disseminating information regarding expedited applications;
- measures to increase the visibility on State websites on information regarding expedited applications; and
- a comparison with similar programs and outreach efforts in other states.

Current Law: The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 facilitates professional licensing for active military personnel, veterans, and their spouses. The Act applies to the State's major licensing agencies, including MDL. Under the Act, as amended by Chapter 312 of 2019, occupational and professional licensing units within MDL must issue expedited licenses, registrations, or certificates to military service members, veterans, and military spouses if specified education, training, and experience conditions are met.

Licenses must be issued within 60 days after receipt of a completed application. In calculating an individual's years of practice in an occupation or a profession, each MDL licensing unit must give credit for all relevant experience as a service member. Each unit must credit any training and education provided by the military and completed by a service member toward any training or education requirements for licensure if the training or education is substantially equivalent to the training or education required by the unit and not otherwise contrary to any other licensing requirement. MDL, and each licensing unit of MDL, must prominently publish on its website the process for obtaining a license and the time period during which an expedited license must be issued.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2023
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