



DEFENSE-STATE LIAISON OFFICE

2022 Key Issues

- Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure Portability
- Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access
- Licensing Compacts
- Purple Star Schools Program
- Advance Enrollment
- Open Enrollment Flexibility
- In-State Tuition Continuity
- Child Abuse Identification and Reporting
- Concurrent Jurisdiction
- “Ask the Question” Campaign

Explore Military State Policy Source

Visit our website to access information on key issues, track the status of legislation on these issues across states and connect to official data from the Department of Defense.

Learn more at:
statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/

**MILITARY
STATE POLICY
SOURCE**

Working With State Policymakers to Support Military Families

Background

The Defense-State Liaison Office works with state policymakers to change laws and policies to improve military family well-being. Each year, the DSLO focuses on 10 key issues. For each issue, the Military State Policy Source website provides background information, official Department of Defense data and status updates on relevant information across states.

Purpose

Many issues impacting the well-being of service members and their families are best addressed by state governments. In 2004, the undersecretary of defense for Personnel and Readiness established an outreach program through the DSLO to educate state policymakers on unintended barriers created by state policies and other issues important to military families.

What We Do

The DSLO has eight regional liaisons who live and work in regions of the United States. The liaisons assist state policymakers by providing educational information, identifying “best practice” legislation and presenting testimony when requested.

Track Record

DSLO has assisted state policymakers in enacting more than 700 bills since 2012 covering occupational licensure, employment protection, consumer protection, family law, child care, child protection, voting, education, health care and state judicial systems.



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2022 Key Issues

Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure Portability: Military spouses are disproportionately affected by state-specific licensure requirements that can cause delays and gaps in employment. States can streamline state licensing processes for relocating military spouses by providing them with a license within 30 days with minimal initial paperwork.

Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access: Accessing applications for military spouses is often a barrier to making use of the state laws that are designed to ease license transfer. States can reduce obstacles spouses experience when applying under state laws by posting easily accessible website content specific to military spouses.

Licensing Compacts: Many military spouse professionals must relicense each time they move to a new state with their active-duty spouse. States can facilitate the ability of professionals, including military spouses, to work across state lines by enacting occupational licensure interstate compacts.

Purple Star Schools Program: Military children experience many challenges as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station. By establishing statewide Purple Star Schools programs, states can encourage local education agencies to implement practices that assist military children with transitions/deployments and also recognize military service and civic responsibility.

Advance Enrollment: Military children are often limited in their school and course registration options due to the timing of military-directed moves. States can help by waiving proof of residency requirements until the student arrives in the new state on military transfer orders.

Open Enrollment Flexibility: Military families are at a disadvantage when it comes to the enrollment options available to their children due to military-directed reassignments. States can provide military families with increased flexibility through access to district open enrollment policies.

In-State Tuition Continuity: Military dependents may lose in-state tuition classification due to the timing of reassignments or changes to the service member's military status. States can deem a dependent of a service member a resident despite changes in the service member's military status following acceptance.

Child Abuse Identification and Reporting: DOD has a statutory obligation to address child abuse and neglect within the military. States can assist the department by requiring local jurisdictions to identify military families and develop reporting and information-sharing procedures between civilian child protective services and military child advocacy.

Concurrent Jurisdiction: Juvenile misconduct on military installations subject to exclusive federal legislative jurisdiction is adjudicated in the federal court system, which is designed for adults. States' juvenile courts can adjudicate juvenile offenses when concurrent jurisdiction is established between state and federal authorities over military installations.

"Ask the Question" Campaign: State agencies may not provide referrals to service members, veterans and their families due to lack of identification. State agencies can connect service members, veterans and their families with local, state and federal resources by asking the question, "Have you or a family member ever served in the military?" on all intake forms.





Key Message

Many military spouse professionals must relicense each time they move to a new state with their active-duty spouse. States can facilitate the ability of professionals, including military spouses, to work across state lines by enacting occupational licensure interstate compacts.

Discussion Points

1. The Defense-State Liaison Office assists national state boards and membership associations in educating legislators on the benefits of their licensure compacts to the military community. The DSLO is currently assisting with the following compacts:

- Nurse Licensure: NLC
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse: APRN
- Physical Therapy: PT
- Occupational Therapy: OT
- Emergency Medical Services: EMS
- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact: PSYPACT
- Counseling Compact
- Audiology and Speech-Language-Hearing Interstate Compact: ASLP-IC

2. These compacts provide the following benefits to members of the military community:

- The NLC, APRN, PT, OT, ASLP-IC and Counseling compacts allow military spouses to designate a home state for their license and use the “privilege to practice” provision to work in any member state without obtaining another license.
- The EMS compact simplifies endorsement requirements for transferring a license.
- The PSYPACT compact supports telepractice and temporary practice for 30 days. This improves access to mental health services for military families while allowing military spouses who are psychologists to sustain a counseling practice through telecommunications in compact states.

3. The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic demonstrates that interstate licensure compacts can provide a permanent solution to leveraging underused medical talent to meet labor shortages in high-need areas.



An increasing number of occupations are establishing interstate compacts to support:

- Common understanding of standards
- States sharing authority and responsibility over occupational-based practices
- “Privilege to practice” policies allowing members to work in other compact states
- Allowing endorsements for a license transfer, primarily based upon changing legal residence
- Telepractice opportunities using technology to work across state boundaries

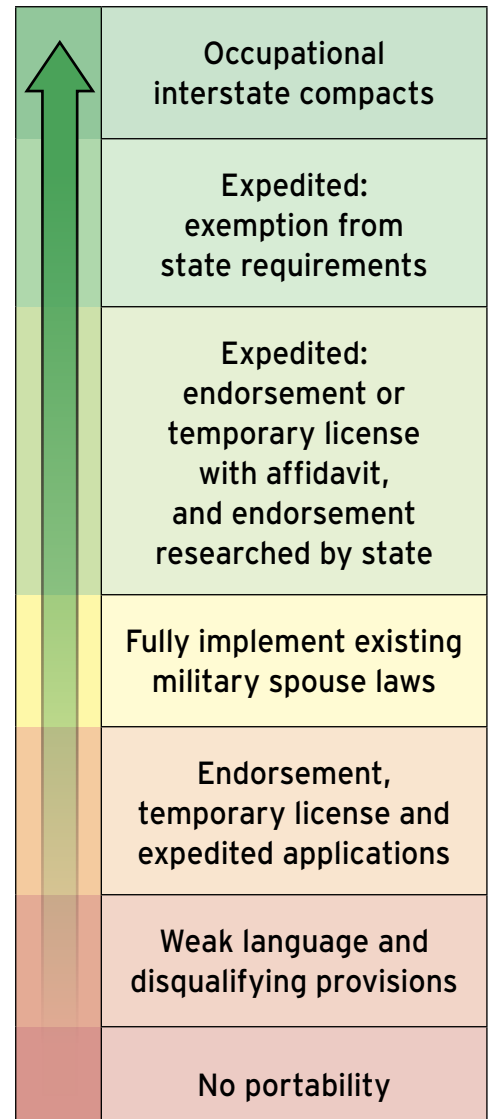


Discussion Points: Enhanced Military Spouse License Portability

State-specific laws are important to reducing the burden associated with the occupational relicensing of military spouses.

Discussion Points:

- From 2011-16, states passed laws to revise work-related licensing for military spouses. But often these laws did not reduce the burden of relicensing for spouses moving to a new state. Many provisions include evaluations that require military spouses to request transcripts, test scores, practicum hours, previous licenses and work experience be sent to verify their application.
- States are continuing to make it easier to use a license in good standing from another state to get a new license. Specific ways states can ease the burden associated with relicensing can include:
 - Exempting the military spouse from state-specific requirements
 - Providing a temporary or permanent license based on an application and an affidavit and requiring the verifying documents be submitted by a specific date
 - Requiring the board to research and adjudicate a licensing request based simply on the application
- The desired outcome is to provide the military spouse with a license (temporary or permanent) within 30 days of application, based on an application and initial submission of minimal documentation.
- The Department of Defense encourages states to approve compacts, but also understands that compacts take time to achieve coverage for each occupation.



**As baseline: license in 30 days with submission of minimal documentation*

This chart shows the relative degree of reciprocity, from full reciprocity through compacts between states (in dark green) to no portability (in red).

The annual percent of the military spouse population that moves across state lines is 14.5% – compared to 1.1% for civilian spouses. As much as 34% of military spouses in the labor force are required to be fully licensed; and of those spouses, 19% experience challenges maintaining their licenses.