

ALASKA

Summary of Legislation

Passed in 2011, House Bill 28 states that boards may issue military spouses temporary licenses that are valid for 180 days and the temporary licenses may be extended for one additional 180-day period. In addition, boards shall expedite the application procedure for spouses. To qualify, spouses need to live with Active Duty Service members who are stationed in Alaska under official military orders. Spouses also must hold a current license or certificate in another jurisdiction with requirements that are equivalent to the requirements of occupational boards in Alaska.

Location of Bill:

House Bill 28 - <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/Bill/Detail/27?Root=HB%20%2028>

Legislation Meets Best Practices Guidelines for Military Spouse Licensure Portability by:

<input type="radio"/>	Licensure by endorsement
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Temporary or provisional licensing
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Expedited application process
<input type="radio"/> Not addressed in legislation <input checked="" type="radio"/> Addressed in legislation	

Results from Data Collection

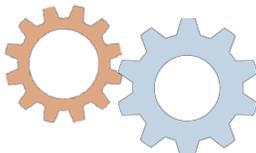
General Findings

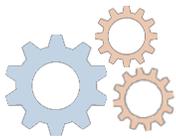
- The Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing website indicates that spouses of Active Duty military personnel with Alaska military orders may request to have their temporary license applications expedited by attaching a special form to their applications. The expedited application process applies to all six boards in the study.
- Board staff were unaware of legislation that supports licensure portability for spouses except for staff at the Dentistry and Occupational Therapy boards.
- With the exception of the Massage Therapy and Occupational Therapy boards, there is no unique process for spouses to transfer their occupational licenses.
- Spouses cannot be licensed by endorsement or temporary licensure by any of the six boards.
- No information was available pertaining to how many spouses have transferred their licenses in the last year.

Findings Specific to Each Board

Cosmetology

- Alaska does not offer a cosmetology license; this license type has been divided into esthetician and hairdresser licenses.
- To qualify for a hairdresser license by credentials, spouses need to hold an active license from at least one other jurisdiction, 1,650 hours of training through a school or 2,000 hours through an apprentice program, and proof of passing written and practical examinations.
- For spouses who do not have the minimum required hours, work experience can be used as a substitute.





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Results from Data Collection (continued)

- The board offers temporary licenses, which are valid for 120 days and are non-renewable.
- Once an application is submitted, it takes about four to six weeks to be approved.

Dental Hygiene

- The board allows for licensure by examination for spouses that have held dental hygienist licenses in another jurisdiction for at least 90 days.
- To be eligible, spouses need to submit a full application, pay application fees, apply for the Professional Background Information Services (PBIS) Level II credentials review, and complete the board's jurisprudence exam.
- The length of time to process an application is six to eight weeks.

Massage Therapy

- Spouses can apply for licensure by endorsement by submitting verification of current licensure from a jurisdiction with requirements that are substantially equal to or greater than Alaska's requirements.
- The average processing time of the application is two months.

Mental Health Counseling

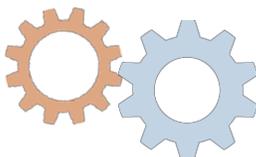
- Spouses can be licensed by credentials if they hold current licenses from another jurisdiction with the same or greater licensure requirements than Alaska.
- The average processing time of the application is three to four weeks.

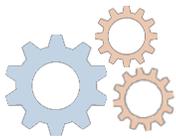
Occupational Therapy

- The board has a process for spouses that expedites their application process.
- Spouses can be granted a temporary permit when they meet all license requirements.
- The temporary permits are valid for eight months or until the permanent license is issued.
- The average processing time of the application is eight weeks.

Real Estate Commission

- Spouses need to complete 40 hours of Alaska-approved pre-licensing real estate courses and pass the Alaska real estate salesperson exam.
- Spouses then need to submit a Salesperson License by Examination application for licensure with the appropriate licensing fees.
- The processing time varies and staff reported that the length of time cannot be estimated.





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Recommendations

Future efforts could:

- Collaborate with state legislators to modify HB 28 to require that, besides providing temporary licenses and an expedited application process, occupational boards facilitate the process of transfer by allowing licensure by endorsement.
- Encourage and monitor occupational boards to implement the requirements of HB 28 so that spouses can have an expedited application process and be offered temporary licenses when needed.

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