

By: Powell

S.B. No. 145

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to state occupational licensing of certain military  
3 veterans and military spouses.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 21.052, Education Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsections (a-1), (b-1), and (f) and adding Subsection  
7 (i) to read as follows:

8 (a-1) The commissioner may adopt rules establishing  
9 exceptions to the examination requirements prescribed by  
10 Subsection (a)(3) for an educator who is a military veteran or  
11 military spouse or is from outside the state to obtain a certificate  
12 in this state.

13 (b-1) The board shall propose rules in accordance with  
14 Sections 55.005 and 55.006, Occupations Code, to establish  
15 procedures to expedite the processing of an application for a  
16 certificate under this section submitted by an educator who is a  
17 military veteran or military ~~[the]~~ spouse ~~[of a person who is~~  
18 ~~serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United~~  
19 ~~States],~~ including rules for providing a permanent change of  
20 station or military identification card ~~[the appropriate~~  
21 ~~documentation to establish the educator's status as a spouse of a~~  
22 ~~person who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces~~  
23 ~~of the United States].~~

24 (f) The board shall post on the board's Internet website the

1 procedures for obtaining a certificate under Subsection (a) and the  
2 notice required under Section 55.010, Occupations Code.

3 (i) In this section:

4 (1) "Active duty" means current full-time military  
5 service in the armed forces of the United States or active duty  
6 military service as a member of the Texas military forces, as  
7 defined by Section 437.001, Government Code, or similar military  
8 service of another state.

9 (2) "Armed forces of the United States" means the  
10 army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United  
11 States or a reserve unit of one of those branches of the armed  
12 forces.

13 (3) "Military service member" means a person who is on  
14 active duty.

15 (4) "Military spouse" means a person who is married to  
16 a military service member.

17 (5) "Military veteran" means a person who has served  
18 on active duty and who was discharged or released from active duty.

19 SECTION 2. Section 55.004, Occupations Code, is amended by  
20 adding Subsections (a-1) and (d) to read as follows:

21 (a-1) In adopting rules under Subsection (a), the state  
22 agency shall ensure that a military veteran or military spouse  
23 receives appropriate credit for the individual's experience,  
24 including clinical and professional experience, in a licensed  
25 profession.

26 (d) A state agency that issues a license that has a  
27 residency requirement for license eligibility shall adopt rules to

1 allow a military spouse applicant to establish residency for  
2 purposes of this subsection by providing to the agency a copy of the  
3 permanent change of station order for the military service member  
4 to whom the spouse is married or the spouse's military  
5 identification card.

6 SECTION 3. Section 55.010, Occupations Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 55.010. NOTICE OF CHAPTER PROVISIONS. (a) In this  
9 section, "commission" means the Texas Workforce Commission.

10 (b) A state agency that issues a license shall prominently  
11 post a notice on the home page of the agency's Internet website  
12 describing the provisions of this chapter that are available to  
13 military service members, military veterans, and military spouses.

14 (c) A state agency that issues a license under rules adopted  
15 under Section 55.004 shall notify the commission immediately on  
16 determining that the requirements of a license of this state are  
17 substantially equivalent to those of another jurisdiction.

18 (d) The commission shall establish and maintain an Internet  
19 website to serve as a single location for military veterans and  
20 military spouses to access information regarding the issuance of a  
21 license by a state agency to a military veteran or military spouse  
22 who is licensed in another jurisdiction, including a list of each  
23 license of this state and license of another jurisdiction that is  
24 determined by a state agency to be substantially equivalent.

25 SECTION 4. Section 2, Chapter 1048 (H.B. 1934), Acts of the  
26 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is repealed.

27 SECTION 5. Not later than January 1, 2022, the Texas

1 Workforce Commission shall establish the Internet website required  
2 by Section 55.010, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act.

3       SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
4 an initial application for or an application for renewal of an  
5 occupational license filed on or after the effective date of this  
6 Act. An application for a license filed before the effective date of  
7 this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before that  
8 date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

9       SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.