

AN ACT

relating to the licensing of certain military veterans as health care providers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 155, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 155.012 to read as follows:

Sec. 155.012. LICENSING OF CERTAIN MILITARY VETERANS. (a) In this section, "active duty" and "armed forces of the United States" have the meanings assigned by Section 55.001.

(b) The board shall issue a license to practice medicine to an applicant who:

(1) is licensed in good standing as a physician in another state;

(2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more than one year before the application date for a license under this section;

(3) was, at the time of retiring from or leaving military service:

(A) serving on active duty; and

(B) authorized as a physician to treat persons enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or veterans;

(4) was honorably discharged from military service;

and

1 (5) has passed the Texas medical jurisprudence
2 examination.

3 (c) The board may not issue a license under this section to
4 an applicant who:

5 (1) holds a medical license or a license to prescribe,
6 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

7 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

8 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or
9 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

10 (2) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication
11 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under
12 active investigation for the commission of:

13 (A) a felony; or

14 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

15 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 204, Occupations Code, is
16 amended by adding Section 204.159 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 204.159. LICENSING OF CERTAIN MILITARY VETERANS. (a)
18 In this section, "active duty" and "armed forces of the United
19 States" have the meanings assigned by Section 55.001.

20 (b) The physician assistant board shall issue a license to
21 an applicant who:

22 (1) is licensed in good standing as a physician
23 assistant in another state;

24 (2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United
25 States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more
26 than one year before the application date for a license under this
27 section;

1 (3) was, at the time of retiring from or otherwise
2 leaving military service:

3 (A) serving on active duty; and

4 (B) authorized as a physician assistant to treat
5 persons enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or
6 veterans;

7 (4) was honorably discharged from military service;
8 and

9 (5) has passed the jurisprudence examination.

10 (c) The physician assistant board may not issue a license
11 under this section to an applicant who:

12 (1) holds a physician assistant license or a license
13 to prescribe, dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled
14 substance that:

15 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

16 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or
17 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

18 (2) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication
19 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under
20 active investigation for the commission of:

21 (A) a felony; or

22 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

23 SECTION 3. Subchapter F, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, is
24 amended by adding Section 301.262 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 301.262. LICENSING OF CERTAIN MILITARY VETERANS. (a)
26 In this section, "active duty" and "armed forces of the United
27 States" have the meanings assigned by Section 55.001.

1 (b) The board shall issue a license to practice nursing to
2 an applicant who:

3 (1) is licensed in good standing as a nurse in another
4 state;

5 (2) is a veteran of the armed forces of the United
6 States who retired from or otherwise left military service not more
7 than one year before the application date for a license under this
8 section;

9 (3) was, at the time of retiring from or otherwise
10 leaving military service:

11 (A) serving on active duty; and

12 (B) authorized as a nurse to treat persons
13 enlisted in the armed forces of the United States or veterans;

14 (4) was honorably discharged from military service;
15 and

16 (5) has passed the jurisprudence examination.

17 (c) The board may not issue a license under this section to
18 an applicant who:

19 (1) holds a nursing license or a license to prescribe,
20 dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

21 (A) is currently under active investigation; or

22 (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or
23 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

24 (2) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication
25 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under
26 active investigation for the commission of:

27 (A) a felony; or

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1 (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 879 was passed by the House on April 29, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 879 was passed by the Senate on May 15, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor