

1-1 By: Wilson (Senate Sponsor - Sparks) H.B. No. 5629
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 19, 2025;
1-3 May 19, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran
1-4 Affairs; May 26, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 26, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6	COMMITTEE VOTE			
1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent
1-8	Hancock	X		
1-9	Parker			X
1-10	Eckhardt	X		
1-11	Gutierrez	X		
1-12	Hagenbuch	X		
1-13	Hall			X
1-14	Menéndez	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the occupational licensing of military service
1-18 members, military veterans, and military spouses.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Sections 55.004(a) and (d), Occupations Code,
1-21 are amended to read as follows:

1-22 (a) A state agency that issues a license shall ~~issue~~ adopt
1-23 ~~rules for the issuance of~~ the license to an applicant who is a
1-24 military service member, military veteran, or military spouse and:

1-25 (1) holds a current license issued by another state
1-26 ~~[jurisdiction] that is similar in scope of practice [has licensing~~
1-27 ~~requirements that are substantially equivalent]~~ to the
1-28 ~~[requirements for the] license in this state and is in good standing~~
1-29 ~~with that state's licensing authority; or~~

1-30 (2) within the five years preceding the application
1-31 date held the license in this state.

1-32 (d) A state agency that issues a license that has a
1-33 residency requirement for license eligibility ~~may not~~ [shall]
1-34 ~~adopt rules requiring [regarding] documentation [necessary] for an~~
1-35 ~~applicant who is a military service member, military veteran, or~~
1-36 ~~military spouse to establish residency for purposes of this section~~
1-37 ~~[subsection, including by providing to the agency a copy of the~~
1-38 ~~permanent change of station order for the applicant or the~~
1-39 ~~applicant's spouse].~~

1-40 SECTION 2. Section 55.0041, Occupations Code, is amended by
1-41 amending Subsections (a), (b), (d), (d-1), and (e) and adding
1-42 Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

1-43 (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a military service
1-44 member or military spouse may engage in a business or occupation for
1-45 which a license is required without obtaining the applicable
1-46 license if the member or spouse ~~[is]~~ currently holds a license
1-47 similar in scope of practice issued by the licensing authority of
1-48 another state and is [licensed] in good standing with [by another
1-49 jurisdiction] that [has] licensing authority [requirements that
1-50 are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in
1-51 this state].

1-52 (b) Before engaging in the practice of the business or
1-53 occupation under Subsection (a), the military service member or
1-54 military spouse must submit an application to the applicable state
1-55 agency in the form the agency prescribes that includes:

1-56 (1) a copy [notify the applicable state agency] of the
1-57 member's military orders showing relocation to [or spouse's intent
1-58 to practice in] this state;

1-59 (2) if the applicant is a military spouse, a copy of
1-60 the military spouse's marriage license [submit to the agency proof
1-61 of the member's or spouse's residency in this state in accordance

with rules adopted under Section 55.004(d) and a copy of the member's or spouse's military identification card]; and

(3) a notarized affidavit affirming under penalty of perjury ~~[receive from the agency confirmation]~~ that:

(A) the applicant is the person described and identified in the application ~~[the agency has verified the member's or spouse's license in the other jurisdiction]; [and]~~

(B) all statements in the application are true, correct, and complete;

(C) the applicant understands the scope of practice for the applicable license in this state and will not perform outside of that scope of practice; and

(D) the applicant is in good standing in each state in which the applicant holds or has held an applicable license ~~[the member or spouse is authorized to engage in the business or occupation in accordance with this section].~~

(b-1) Not later than the 10th business day after the date the agency receives an application under Subsection (b), the agency shall notify the applicant that:

(1) the agency recognizes the applicant's out-of-state license;

(2) the application is incomplete; or

(3) the agency is unable to recognize the applicant's out-of-state license because the agency does not issue a license similar in scope of practice to the applicant's license.

(d) A military service member or military spouse may engage in the business or occupation under the authority of this section only for the period during which the military service member or, with respect to a military spouse, the military service member to whom the spouse is married is stationed at a military installation in this state ~~[but not to exceed three years from the date the member or spouse receives the confirmation described by Subsection (b)(3)].~~

(d-1) ~~In [Notwithstanding Subsection (d), in]~~ the event of a divorce or similar event that affects a person's status as a military spouse, the former spouse may continue to engage in the business or occupation under the authority of this section until the third anniversary of the date the spouse submitted the application required ~~[received the confirmation described]~~ by Subsection (b) ~~[(b)(3)]~~.

(e) A state agency that issues a license shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules must establish a process for the agency to~~+~~

~~[(1)]~~ identify, with respect to each type of license issued by the agency, the states ~~[jurisdictions]~~ that issue licenses similar in scope of practice to those issued by the agency ~~[have licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in this state, and]~~

~~[(2) not later than the 30th day after the date a military service member or military spouse submits the information described by Subsections (b)(1) and (2), verify that the member or spouse is licensed in good standing in a jurisdiction described by Subdivision (1)].~~

SECTION 3. Chapter 55, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Sections 55.0042 and 55.0043 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.0042. DETERMINATION OF GOOD STANDING. For purposes of this chapter, a person is in good standing with another state's licensing authority if the person:

(1) holds a license that is current, has not been suspended or revoked, and has not been voluntarily surrendered during an investigation for unprofessional conduct;

(2) has not been disciplined by the licensing authority with respect to the license or person's practice of the occupation for which the license is issued; and

(3) is not currently under investigation by the licensing authority for unprofessional conduct related to the person's license or profession.

Sec. 55.0043. COMPLAINTS. (a) A state agency that issues a license or recognizes an out-of-state license under this chapter

shall maintain a record of each complaint made against a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse to whom the agency issues a license or who holds an out-of-state license the agency recognizes.

(b) A state agency shall publish at least quarterly on the agency's Internet website the information maintained under Subsection (a), including a general description of the disposition of each complaint.

SECTION 4. Section 55.005(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A state agency that issues a license shall, not later than the 10th business [30th] day after the date a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse files an application for a license:

(1) process the application; and

(2) issue the license to an applicant who qualifies for the license under Section 55.004.

SECTION 5. Section 55.009, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 55.009. LICENSE APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES. Notwithstanding any other law, a state agency that issues a license shall waive the license application and examination fees paid to the state for an applicant who is[+]

~~[(1) a military service member or military veteran whose military service, training, or education substantially meets all of the requirements for the license; or~~

~~[(2)] a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse [who holds a current license issued by another jurisdiction that has licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in this state].~~

SECTION 6. Section 55.0041(f), Occupations Code, is repealed.

SECTION 7. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, a state agency, as defined by Section 55.001, Occupations Code, shall adopt, modify, or repeal the rules necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act.

SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an application for a license filed with a state agency, as defined by Section 55.001, Occupations Code, on or after the effective date of this Act. An application for a license filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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