



Key Message

Many military spouse professionals must relicense each time they transfer with their active-duty spouse. As states implement the provision of the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act, they can help military spouses maintain professional and financial stability by enacting licensing compacts and ensuring that licensing agencies make their application processes accessible to military spouses.

Discussion Points

1. Occupational licensure compacts take precedence over the licensure portability provision of the federal law embodied in H.R. 7939. The Defense-State Liaison Office assists national organizations, state boards and member associations in educating legislators on the benefits of compacts to the military community.
 - Most compacts allow military spouses to designate a home state for their license, ensuring that a military spouse does not have to transfer a license with each military move.
 - Licensure compacts are developed through an extensive stakeholder-informed and consensus-based process from the existing policies across states and respond to the unique characteristics and needs of a profession.
 - Compacts preserve state sovereignty by establishing a formal relationship that allows states to determine their scope of practice.
 - Professionals using a compact license must follow the scope-of-practice requirements and regulations of the state they are practicing in.
2. States can support military families by ensuring that information about licensure is easily accessible.
 - The key to helping a spouse is posting guidance on an easy-to-find website that explains how to apply for a license using military spouse provisions. This is often the first place a spouse will search.
 - State boards can provide information to spouses by ensuring staff is knowledgeable about the laws and policies impacting military spouses.
 - Applications identifying military affiliations can help agencies and boards implement supportive laws and policies.
3. States can support military spouses who prefer to obtain a state license once relocated by issuing them a license within 30 days and requiring minimal initial paperwork in the application.



On Jan. 5, 2023, President Joe Biden signed into law the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (H.R. 7939). Section 19 contains the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act, which intends to provide for licensure portability among all 50 states for all service members and military spouse licensed professionals, except the practice of law.