



# NEW JERSEY

## Summary of Legislation

Public Law 2013, Chapter 264 to the New Jersey General and Permanent Statutes was approved in 2014 and states that occupational boards shall issue licenses to military spouses who meet New Jersey state requirements for licensure. However, issuance of licensure is at the discretion of the board. In addition, the law indicates that each board must establish criteria to issue a temporary license to military spouses until their eligibility for a permanent license is determined.

Location of Statute:

Public Law 2013, Chapter 264 –  
[http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2012/Bills/PL13/264\\_.HTM](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2012/Bills/PL13/264_.HTM)

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Licensure by endorsement
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Temporary or provisional licensing
<input type="radio"/>	Expedited application process

Not addressed in legislation  
 Addressed in legislation

## Results from Data Collection

General Findings

- Staff at the Cosmetology and Mental Health Counseling boards were aware of state legislation about military spouse licensure portability, but staff at the Massage Therapy, Dental Hygiene, and Occupational Therapy boards and Real Estate Commission were not aware.
- None of the boards indicated there was a point of contact or unique process for military spouses.
- Staff at the Cosmetology board indicated one military spouse had inquired about license transfer in the last year. None of the other boards had data on inquiries from military spouses.

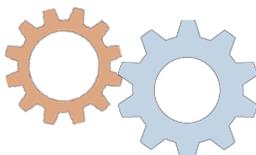
Findings Specific to Each Board

*Cosmetology*

- To transfer licenses, spouses must submit verification of their previous license as well as proof of 1,200 hours of education or 3 years of work experience.
- Once the application has been approved, it takes two to four weeks for a permanent license to be issued.

*Dental Hygiene*

- Spouses are eligible to transfer their licenses by credential, which is similar to reciprocity. They must submit verification of previous license, including proof they passed all required examinations for that state.
- Spouses must also take a New Jersey jurisprudence course, which is online. Once they have submitted their complete application, licenses are issued in about two weeks.





## Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

### Results from Data Collection (continued)

#### *Massage Therapy*

- Spouses from the following states are eligible to transfer their licenses via reciprocity: Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Transfer by endorsement involves submitting proof of an active license that is in good standing.
- Spouses who move from states that are not eligible for endorsement must submit verification of license and proof of education from an accredited institution.
- Once the application is submitted, the approval process can take about 12-16 weeks, and spouses are issued a permanent license once their application is approved.

#### *Mental Health Counseling*

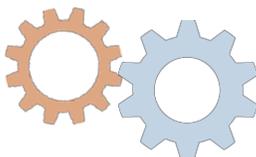
- Spouses are eligible to transfer their licenses via endorsement if they have been licensed for the past five years and have met requirements in the previous jurisdiction that are substantially equivalent to New Jersey's requirements. For example, the board requires 4,500 supervised hours, but spouses who only have 3,000 hours can be eligible if they have also been in practice the last two years.
- Once spouses submit a completed application (e.g., graduate school transcripts, verification of previous license), their transfer is approved within 45 days.

#### *Occupational Therapy*

- Spouses are not eligible for transfer of license by endorsement or reciprocity. Also, their applications are not expedited.
- To transfer a license, spouses must submit certificates of good moral character, verification of their previous licenses, and passing scores of the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.
- Once an application is complete and submitted, licenses are issued in eight to ten weeks.

#### *Real Estate Commission*

- Spouses need to provide verification that they are eligible to transfer their license by showing proof of pre-licensure education (75 hours) and an active license for three years that is in good standing.
- If they do not have 75 hours of pre-licensure education from a previous jurisdiction, spouses must participate in further education credit hours until they reach 75 hours.
- Spouses must also take both a national and New Jersey jurisprudence exam. Once the application is submitted, it typically takes one to two months to issue the license.





# Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination State Report

## Recommendations

### Future efforts could:

- Promote an amendment to SB 2544 that includes rules that expedite the process of license transfer for military spouses.
- Encourage staff at occupational boards to establish licensure via endorsement for a wider range of professions that frequently employ military spouses.

### **For additional information, please contact:**

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