

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0736.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 24-1097

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Taggart and Weissman,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Gardner,

House Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING OCCUPATIONAL CREDENTIALING FOR MILITARY
102 FAMILIES.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Effective September 1, 2024, the bill makes changes to Colorado's occupational credential portability program (program) relating to the spouses and dependents of military members, including:

- In addition to military spouses already covered by the program, allowing gold star military spouses and dependents of military members who are licensed, certified,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

registered, or enrolled in a profession or occupation (credentialed) in good standing in another state or United States territory (current state) to be credentialed in Colorado by endorsement from the current state to practice the same profession or occupation in Colorado;

- Allowing an applicant to be credentialed under the program if the applicant committed an act that would have been grounds for discipline in this state, but for which the applicant remains in good standing in the current state because the act is not grounds for discipline in the current state;
- Removing the 3-year limitation and nonrenewal provision for a military spouse's credential and allowing military spouses, gold star military spouses, and military dependents to obtain a renewable 6-year credential while in Colorado;
- Waiving the application and renewal fee for Colorado credentials issued to military spouses, gold star military spouses, and military dependents; and
- Expanding eligibility for the program to spouses and dependents of Armed Forces Reserve, Ready Reserve, and National Guard members in Colorado.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the "Military
3 Family Employment Support Act".

4 **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) (a) The general
5 assembly finds and declares that:

6 (I) Not all active military members have orders for three years or
7 less; this is especially true for younger enlisted members;

8 (II) Nearly 39% of military spouses require professional licensing
9 for their jobs;

10 (III) Colorado has nearly 17,000 military spouses of service
11 members across all branches of service; and

12 (IV) Colorado not only recognizes the sacrifice that military
13 spouses make while military members are in service, but also recognizes

1 those who have lost their spouses in the line of duty.

2 (b) Further, the benefits of the "Red Tape Reduction Act", which
3 was enacted in House Bill 20-1326 in 2020, should be expanded to
4 encompass the spouses of military service members who are on orders for
5 longer than three years, spouses of service members in the Ready Reserve
6 and of service members who transfer from active duty service to the
7 National Guard or Armed Forces Reserve, Gold Star military spouses,
8 and military dependents.

9 (c) Therefore, the general assembly declares that:

10 (I) Regulators should continue to reduce barriers to entry into the
11 workforce;

12 (II) Military family members should be granted a Colorado
13 occupational credential for substantially equivalent experience in another
14 state, unless the regulator can demonstrate a specific reason to withhold
15 the credential; and

16 (III) Credentials should continue to be provided in the least
17 burdensome manner possible in order to get professionals to work as soon
18 as possible.

19 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-202, **amend**
20 (3)(f) as follows:

21 **12-20-202. Licenses, certifications, and registrations - renewal**
22 **- reinstatement - fees - occupational credential portability program**
23 **- exceptions for military personnel, spouses, gold star military**
24 **spouses, and dependents - rules - consideration of criminal**
25 **convictions or driver's history - executive director authority -**
26 **definitions. (3) Occupational credential portability program.**
27 ~~(f) Effective January 1, 2021:~~

1 (f) (I) Except as specified in subsection (3)(f)(III) of this section,
2 a military spouse, GOLD STAR MILITARY SPOUSE, OR MILITARY DEPENDENT
3 duly licensed, certified, registered, or enrolled in good standing in another
4 state or United States territory to practice a particular profession or
5 occupation is, upon application to the division for licensure, certification,
6 registration, or enrollment in that profession or occupation in this state,
7 entitled to the issuance of a ~~temporary~~ license, certification, registration,
8 or enrollment upon submission of satisfactory proof to the regulator,
9 under penalty of perjury, of the applicant's active license, certification,
10 registration, or enrollment in another state or United States territory in
11 good standing. ~~and that the applicant has not committed an act that would~~
12 ~~be grounds for disciplinary action under the law governing the applicable~~
13 ~~profession or occupation.~~

14 (II) ~~For the purposes of~~ AS USED IN this subsection (3)(f):

15 (A) "GOLD STAR MILITARY SPOUSE" OR "GOLD STAR SPOUSE"
16 MEANS THE SPOUSE OF A SERVICE MEMBER, WHICH SERVICE MEMBER DIED
17 WHILE ON MILITARY ORDERS, WHO WAS RELOCATED TO COLORADO.

18 ~~(A)~~ (B) "In good standing" means that a license, certification,
19 registration, or enrollment has not been revoked, expired, or suspended
20 and against which there are no outstanding disciplinary or adverse
21 actions.

22 (C) "MILITARY DEPENDENT" MEANS THE DEPENDENT OF AN
23 INDIVIDUAL SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO WAS
24 RELOCATED TO COLORADO.

25 ~~(B)~~ (D) "Military spouse" OR "SPOUSE" means the spouse of a
26 ~~person who is actively~~ AN INDIVIDUAL serving in the United States armed
27 forces ~~and who is stationed in~~ WAS RELOCATED TO Colorado. ~~in~~

1 ~~accordance with military orders.~~

2 (E) "RELOCATED" MEANS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL SERVING IN THE
3 UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND THE INDIVIDUAL'S SPOUSE OR
4 DEPENDENT HAVE, OR THE INDIVIDUAL'S GOLD STAR SPOUSE HAS, MOVED
5 TO COLORADO, AS A RESULT OF: AN ASSIGNMENT TO A DUTY STATION IN
6 COLORADO; A REASSIGNMENT, EITHER AS A RESULT OF A PERMANENT
7 CHANGE OF STATION OR PERMANENT CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT TO
8 COLORADO, BETWEEN TWO DUTY STATIONS; OR A TRANSFER FROM A
9 REGULAR COMPONENT OF A UNIFORMED SERVICE INTO A SELECTED
10 RESERVE OF THE READY RESERVE OF A UNIFORMED SERVICE, IF THE
11 MEMBER IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE A FINAL MOVE FROM THE MEMBER'S
12 LAST DUTY STATION TO COLORADO.

13 (III) An applicant is not entitled to ~~temporary~~ licensure,
14 certification, registration, or enrollment pursuant to this subsection (3)(f)
15 if approving the ~~temporary~~ licensure, certification, registration, or
16 enrollment would violate an existing compact or reciprocity agreement or
17 if the regulator demonstrates by a preponderance of evidence, after notice
18 and opportunity for a hearing, that

19 ~~(A) The applicant has committed an act that would be grounds for~~
20 ~~disciplinary action under the law governing the applicable profession or~~
21 ~~occupation; or~~

22 ~~(B)~~ the applicant's license, certification, registration, or enrollment
23 issued by another state or United States territory is not in good standing.

24 (IV) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

25 (A) A ~~temporary~~ license, certification, registration, or enrollment
26 issued to a military spouse, GOLD STAR MILITARY SPOUSE, OR MILITARY
27 DEPENDENT pursuant to this subsection (3)(f) is valid for ~~three~~ SIX years

1 after the date of issuance and may ~~not~~ be renewed.

2 (B) Each regulator shall waive the application fee for temporary
3 SINGLE STATE licenses, certifications, registrations, or enrollments issued
4 pursuant to this subsection (3)(f).

5 **SECTION 4. Effective date.** This act takes effect September 1,
6 2024.

7 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
10 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
11 institutions.