
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 346

AN ACT CONCERNING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE PORTABILITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR SPOUSES.

SUMMARY

In 2023, Congress amended the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to allow the portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and their spouses for the duration of the servicemember's military orders (50 U.S.C. § 4025a). This bill requires state entities to recognize these occupational and professional credentials (i.e., covered licenses, see below) in compliance with this law. Specifically, the bill applies these requirements to any agency, authority, board, commission, council, department, institution, or other instrumentality of the state.

Under SCRA, if the servicemember or spouse is eligible to practice under an interstate compact that Connecticut is part of, he or she is subject to the compact's provisions, including establishing eligibility to practice, not SCRA.

Under current Connecticut law, spouses of active-duty servicemembers may have their professional license recognized as provided for other residents in the state (see BACKGROUND). Correspondingly, the bill makes conforming changes to these provisions exempting servicemembers and their spouses who qualify under the bill's provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COVERED LICENSES

Under the federal law, a covered license is any professional license or certificate, other than a license to practice law, that (1) is in good standing with the issuing licensing authority and (2) the servicemember or spouse has actively used during the two years immediately before his

or her relocation.

Under the bill, when a servicemember or their spouse relocates to Connecticut due to military orders, they may apply for a license from a Connecticut state entity. The entity must consider the applicant's out-of-state license as qualifying for a Connecticut license of a similar scope of practice and discipline. Unlike similar provisions in existing law, the bill does not specify what entity determines what is considered a similar scope or discipline.

The bill applies to servicemembers in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force, their reserve components, and the Connecticut National Guard performing certain active-duty missions.

RECORDING AND ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

The bill requires the appropriate entity to record the covered license in the registry maintained for that practice or discipline. By July 1, 2024, required entities must publish an application for recognizing covered licenses, as prescribed by the agency's chief executive officer, for each occupational or professional credential.

To have their license recognized, federal law requires that the applicant give the state's licensing authority a copy of the relocation military orders and that the applicant:

1. be in good standing with (a) the licensing authority that issued the covered license; and (b) every other licensing authority that has issued a license to the applicant for a similar scope of practice and discipline; and
2. submit to the jurisdiction's licensing authority for standards of practice, discipline, and continuing education requirements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2024)