

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

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Hancock	X			
1-8 Parker			X	
1-9 Eckhardt	X			
1-10 Gutierrez	X			
1-11 Hagenbuch	X			
1-12 Hall			X	
1-13 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]~~
 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~~

2-1 ~~with rules adopted under Section 55.004(d) and a copy of the~~
 2-2 ~~member's or spouse's military identification card]; and~~

2-3 (3) a notarized affidavit affirming under penalty of
 2-4 perjury [receive from the agency confirmation] that:

2-5 (A) the applicant is the person described and
 2-6 identified in the application [the agency has verified the member's
 2-7 or spouse's license in the other jurisdiction]; [and]

2-8 (B) all statements in the application are true,
 2-9 correct, and complete;

2-10 (C) the applicant understands the scope of
 2-11 practice for the applicable license in this state and will not
 2-12 perform outside of that scope of practice; and

2-13 (D) the applicant is in good standing in each
 2-14 state in which the applicant holds or has held an applicable license
 2-15 [the member or spouse is authorized to engage in the business or
 2-16 occupation in accordance with this section].

2-17 (b-1) Not later than the 10th business day after the date
 2-18 the agency receives an application under Subsection (b), the agency
 2-19 shall notify the applicant that:

2-20 (1) the agency recognizes the applicant's out-of-state
 2-21 license;

2-22 (2) the application is incomplete; or

2-23 (3) the agency is unable to recognize the applicant's
 2-24 out-of-state license because the agency does not issue a license
 2-25 similar in scope of practice to the applicant's license.

2-26 (d) A military service member or military spouse may engage
 2-27 in the business or occupation under the authority of this section
 2-28 only for the period during which the military service member or,
 2-29 with respect to a military spouse, the military service member to
 2-30 whom the spouse is married is stationed at a military installation
 2-31 in this state [but not to exceed three years from the date the
 2-32 member or spouse receives the confirmation described by Subsection
 2-33 (b)(3)].

2-34 (d-1) In [Notwithstanding Subsection (d), in] the event of a
 2-35 divorce or similar event that affects a person's status as a
 2-36 military spouse, the former spouse may continue to engage in the
 2-37 business or occupation under the authority of this section until
 2-38 the third anniversary of the date the spouse submitted the
 2-39 application required [received the confirmation described] by
 2-40 Subsection (b) [(b)(3)].

2-41 (e) A state agency that issues a license shall adopt rules
 2-42 to implement this section. The rules must establish a process for
 2-43 the agency to[+]

2-44 [~~(1)~~] identify, with respect to each type of license
 2-45 issued by the agency, the states [jurisdictions] that issue
 2-46 licenses similar in scope of practice to those issued by the agency
 2-47 [have licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to
 2-48 the requirements for the license in this state, and

2-49 [~~(2)~~ not later than the 30th day after the date a
 2-50 military service member or military spouse submits the information
 2-51 described by Subsections (b)(1) and (2), verify that the member or
 2-52 spouse is licensed in good standing in a jurisdiction described by
 2-53 Subdivision (1)].

2-54 SECTION 3. Chapter 55, Occupations Code, is amended by
 2-55 adding Sections 55.0042 and 55.0043 to read as follows:

2-56 Sec. 55.0042. DETERMINATION OF GOOD STANDING. For purposes
 2-57 of this chapter, a person is in good standing with another state's
 2-58 licensing authority if the person:

2-59 (1) holds a license that is current, has not been
 2-60 suspended or revoked, and has not been voluntarily surrendered
 2-61 during an investigation for unprofessional conduct;

2-62 (2) has not been disciplined by the licensing
 2-63 authority with respect to the license or person's practice of the
 2-64 occupation for which the license is issued; and

2-65 (3) is not currently under investigation by the
 2-66 licensing authority for unprofessional conduct related to the
 2-67 person's license or profession.

2-68 Sec. 55.0043. COMPLAINTS. (a) A state agency that issues a
 2-69 license or recognizes an out-of-state license under this chapter

3-1 shall maintain a record of each complaint made against a military
3-2 service member, military veteran, or military spouse to whom the
3-3 agency issues a license or who holds an out-of-state license the
3-4 agency recognizes.

3-5 (b) A state agency shall publish at least quarterly on the
3-6 agency's Internet website the information maintained under
3-7 Subsection (a), including a general description of the disposition
3-8 of each complaint.

3-9 SECTION 4. Section 55.005(a), Occupations Code, is amended
3-10 to read as follows:

3-11 (a) A state agency that issues a license shall, not later
3-12 than the 10th business [30th] day after the date a military service
3-13 member, military veteran, or military spouse files an application
3-14 for a license:

3-15 (1) process the application; and

3-16 (2) issue the license to an applicant who qualifies
3-17 for the license under Section 55.004.

3-18 SECTION 5. Section 55.009, Occupations Code, is amended to
3-19 read as follows:

3-20 Sec. 55.009. LICENSE APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES.
3-21 Notwithstanding any other law, a state agency that issues a license
3-22 shall waive the license application and examination fees paid to
3-23 the state for an applicant who is[+]

3-24 [~~(1) a military service member or military veteran~~
3-25 ~~whose military service, training, or education substantially meets~~
3-26 ~~all of the requirements for the license, or~~

3-27 [~~(2) a military service member, military veteran, or~~
3-28 ~~military spouse [who holds a current license issued by another~~
3-29 ~~jurisdiction that has licensing requirements that are~~
3-30 ~~substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in~~
3-31 ~~this state].~~

3-32 SECTION 6. Section 55.0041(f), Occupations Code, is
3-33 repealed.

3-34 SECTION 7. As soon as practicable after the effective date
3-35 of this Act, a state agency, as defined by Section 55.001,
3-36 Occupations Code, shall adopt, modify, or repeal the rules
3-37 necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act.

3-38 SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
3-39 an application for a license filed with a state agency, as defined
3-40 by Section 55.001, Occupations Code, on or after the effective date
3-41 of this Act. An application for a license filed before the
3-42 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect
3-43 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
3-44 continued in effect for that purpose.

3-45 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

3-46 * * * * *