



DEFENSE-STATE LIAISON OFFICE

Working with state policymakers to support military families



U.S. Department of Defense

M
STATE POLICY

What We Do

The Defense-State Liaison Office works with state policymakers to change laws and policies to improve military family well-being.

Since 2010, we've worked with state policymakers to enact more than 800 bills that make life better for the military community.



Military Matters: Key Issues

The Defense-State Liaison Office works with Defense Department leaders and other stakeholders to choose 10 issues to focus on each year.

FOCUS:

Work with state policymakers to alleviate barriers as a result of military life

Harmonize differences between state and federal laws

See an overview of where your state stands on key issues for military families at statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil.



Military Spouse Employment

“Our military isn’t going to be able to keep our best and our brightest if they have to choose between love of family and love of country....supporting military families is critical to our national security.”

--Dr. Jill Biden, First Lady of the United States



Military Spouse Licensure

Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure Portability

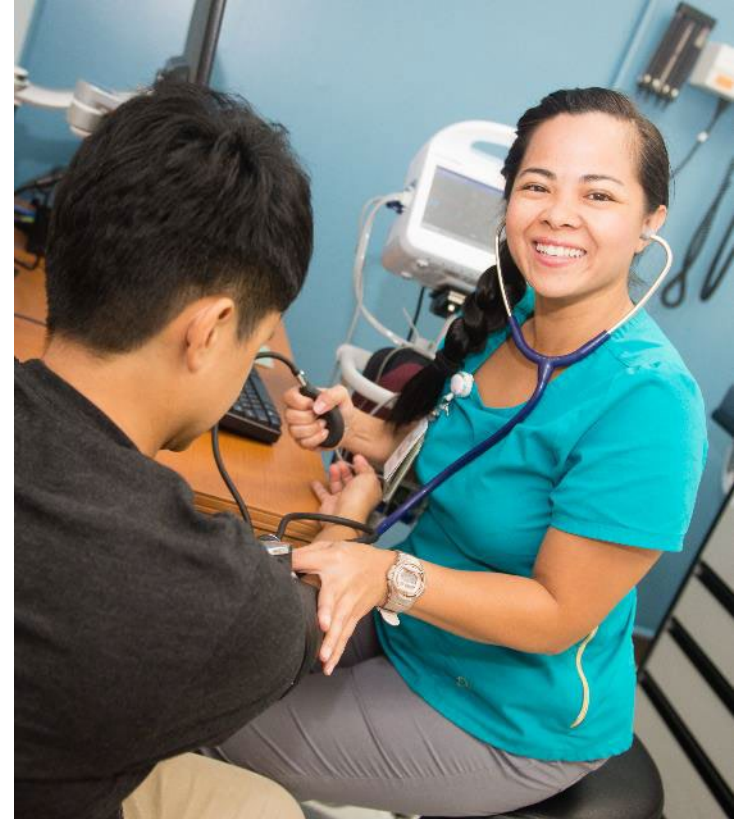
States can streamline state licensing processes for relocating military spouses by providing them with a license within 30 days with minimal initial paperwork.

Licensing Compacts

States can facilitate the ability of professionals, including military spouses, to work across state lines by enacting occupational licensure interstate compacts.

Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access

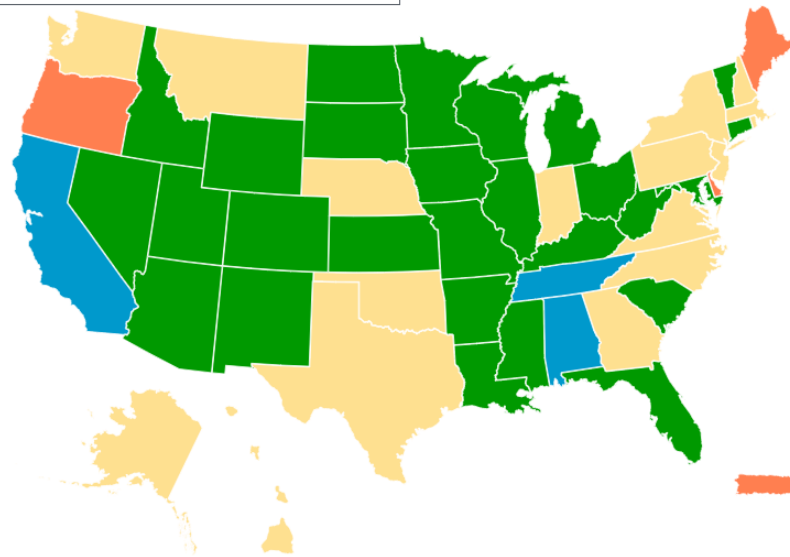
States can reduce the obstacles spouses experience when applying under state laws by posting easily accessible website content specific to military spouses.







Department of Labor Assessment

Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Options

Table below map lists states alphabetically.



Legend

-  State must recognize military spouse license
-  State's recognition process excludes many professions
-  State must recognize military spouse license if home state has equivalent training
-  States may choose to recognize military spouse license



Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure

- A license within 30-days of application with minimal paperwork.
 - California: AB107 (2021)
 - Virginia: HB 967 (2020)
 - Colorado: HB 1326 (2020)
 - Maine: LD 374 (2021)
 - Pennsylvania: HB 1172 (2019)
 - Ohio: SB 7 (2020)



Compacts



Create a legally binding agreement between states

Similar to a contract, a compact establishes a formal, legal relationship among states to address common problems or promote a common agenda.



Promote cooperative action among states

Compacts can be leveraged for any issue where states have a need to coordinate. For example, existing compacts are used to reduce burdens for military families in transition, solve boundary disputes, manage shared natural resources, and build resilience to natural disasters



Provide a widely recognized and durable policy solution

Every state is a member of at least one compact. There are over 250 active compacts in the U.S., and on average states are members of about 25.

Source: National Center for Interstate Compacts, Council of State Governments



Occupational Licensure Compacts

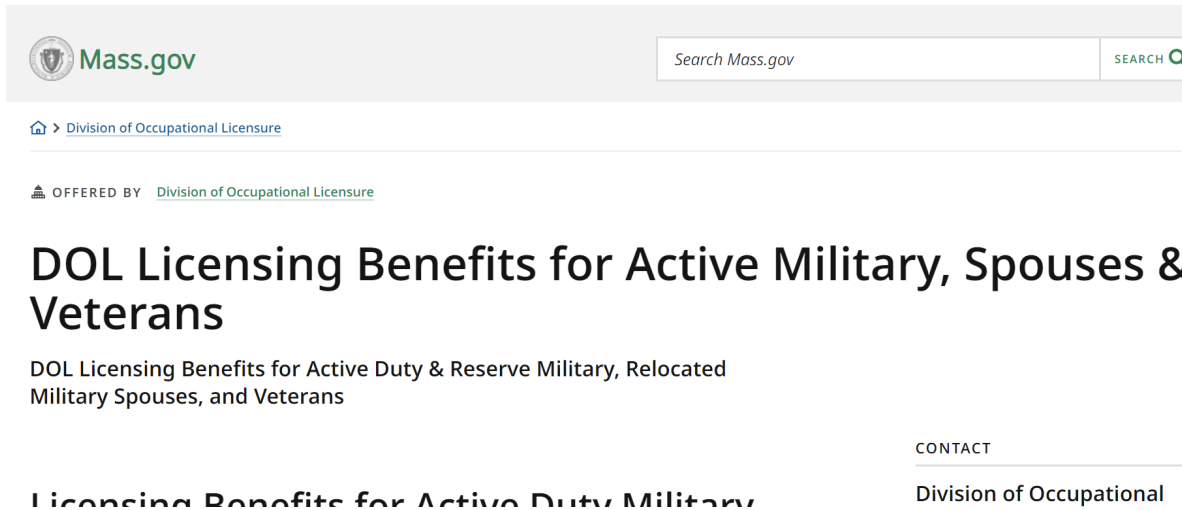
- **Physical Therapy: PT (2016)**
- Occupational Therapy: OT (19 Member States)
- Emergency Medical Services: EMS (21 Member States)
- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact: PSYPACT (33 Enacted, 28 Operational)
- Counseling Compact (10 Member States)
- Audiology and Speech-Language-Hearing Interstate Compact: ASLP-IC (19 Member States)
- Nurse Licensure: NLC (37 Member States)
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse: APRN (2 Member States)
- (On the horizon: Social Work, Barbering/Cosmetology, Massage Therapy)



Military Spouse Licensure Access

States can reduce obstacles spouses experience when applying under state laws by posting easily accessible website content specific to military spouses.

Example:



The screenshot shows the Mass.gov website interface. At the top left is the Mass.gov logo. To its right is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search Mass.gov' and a 'SEARCH' button with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Division of Occupational Licensure'. Underneath is a section labeled 'OFFERED BY' with a small icon and the text 'Division of Occupational Licensure'. The main heading is 'DOL Licensing Benefits for Active Military, Spouses & Veterans'. Below the heading is a sub-heading: 'DOL Licensing Benefits for Active Duty & Reserve Military, Relocated Military Spouses, and Veterans'. At the bottom right of the page, there is a 'CONTACT' section with a horizontal line and the text 'Division of Occupational'.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dol-licensing-benefits-for-active-military-spouses-veterans>



2023 Key Issues: The Way Ahead



DSLO: Ready to Support

The Defense-State Liaison Office stands ready to help you make changes in these areas and others that matter to military families.

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For additional information, visit statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil.

Thank you for helping our military families.

