A bill to be entitled An act relating to occupational licensure of military spouses; amending s. 456.024, F.S.; requiring the Department of Health or the applicable board to issue a professional license to spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States if certain requirements are met; requiring the department to waive the application fee for such license applications; authorizing applicants issued such licenses to renew their licenses if certain requirements are met; providing construction; requiring the department or applicable board to expedite applications for such licenses; requiring the department or applicable board to issue a temporary professional license under certain circumstances; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraphs (a), (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) of subsection (4) of section 456.024, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (j) is added to that subsection, to read: 456.024 Members of Armed Forces in good standing with

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Page 1 of 4

administrative boards or the department; spouses; licensure. -

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

(4)(a) The board, or the department if there is no board, shall may issue a temporary professional license to the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who submits to the department:

- 1. A completed application upon a form prepared and furnished by the department in accordance with the board's rules;
 - 2. The required application fee;

- 3. Proof that the applicant is married to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is on active duty;
- 3.4. Proof that the applicant holds a valid license for the profession issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States, and is not the subject of any disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction in which the applicant holds a license to practice a profession regulated by this chapter;
- $\underline{4.5.}$ Proof that the applicant's spouse is assigned to a duty station in this state pursuant to the member's official active duty military orders; and
- 5.6. Proof that the applicant would otherwise be entitled to full licensure under the appropriate practice act, and is eligible to take the respective licensure examination as required in Florida.
- (c) Each board, or the department if there is no board, shall review the results of the state and federal criminal

Page 2 of 4

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history checks according to the level 2 screening standards in s. 435.04 when granting an exemption and when granting or denying the temporary license.

- (e) The department shall <u>waive the applicant's licensure</u> set an application fee, which may not exceed the cost of issuing the license.
- may renew such license upon completion of the conditions for renewal required of licenseholders under the applicable practice act, including, without limitation, continuing education requirements. This paragraph does not limit waiver of initial licensure requirements under this subsection A temporary license expires 12 months after the date of issuance and is not renewable.
- (g) An applicant for a $\frac{1}{1}$ temperary license under this subsection is subject to the requirements under s. 456.013(3)(a) and (c).
- (h) An applicant shall be deemed ineligible for a temporary license pursuant to this section if the applicant:
- 1. Has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession;
- 2. Has had a health care provider license revoked or suspended from another of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a United States territory;

Page 3 of 4

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

3. Has been reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, unless the applicant has successfully appealed to have his or her name removed from the data bank; or

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- 4. Has previously failed the Florida examination required to receive a license to practice the profession for which the applicant is seeking a license.
- (i) The board, or <u>the</u> department if there is no board, may revoke a temporary license upon finding that the individual violated the profession's governing practice act.
- (j) The board, or the department if there is no board, shall:
- 1. Expedite all applications submitted by a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to this section; and
- 2. Issue a temporary professional license valid for the duration of the application review process to such spouse once the board or department verifies the information provided by the spouse pursuant to paragraph (a) is accurate.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.