

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to credit for relevant military  
3           service; amending s. 401.27, F.S.; revising the  
4           application requirements for emergency medical  
5           technician or paramedic certification; amending s.  
6           456.024, F.S.; directing the Department of Health, or  
7           the applicable board pursuant to chapter 456, F.S., to  
8           issue health care practitioner licenses to eligible  
9           military health care practitioners and eligible health  
10          care practitioners who are spouses of active duty  
11          servicemembers; deleting provisions for the issuance  
12          of temporary professional licenses to the spouses of  
13          active duty servicemembers; creating s. 456.0241,  
14          F.S.; directing the Department of Health to issue  
15          temporary certificates to eligible active duty  
16          military health care practitioners; providing  
17          definitions; providing requirements for temporary  
18          certification; providing for expiration of such  
19          certification; providing exemptions; directing the  
20          department to set application and renewal fees,  
21          develop and furnish an application form, and adopt  
22          rules; creating s. 489.1131, F.S.; directing the  
23          Department of Business and Professional Regulation to  
24          provide a method by which honorably discharged  
25          veterans may apply for construction contracting  
26          licensure; authorizing the Construction Industry

27 Licensing Board to adopt rules; directing the  
28 department, in conjunction with the board, to annually  
29 prepare and submit a specified report to the Governor  
30 and Legislature; amending s. 489.511, F.S.; revising  
31 eligibility criteria for taking the electrical or  
32 alarm system contractor certification examination;  
33 creating s. 489.5161, F.S.; directing the Department  
34 of Business and Professional Regulation to provide a  
35 method by which honorably discharged veterans may  
36 apply for electrical or alarm system contracting  
37 licensure; authorizing the Electrical Contractors'  
38 Licensing Board to adopt rules; directing the  
39 department, in conjunction with the board, to annually  
40 prepare and submit a specified report to the Governor  
41 and Legislature; creating s. 493.61035, F.S.;;  
42 directing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
43 Services to provide a method by which honorably  
44 discharged veterans may apply for private  
45 investigative, private security, and repossession  
46 services licensure; authorizing the department to  
47 adopt rules; directing the department to annually  
48 prepare and submit a specified report to the Governor  
49 and Legislature; directing the Department of Highway  
50 Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of  
51 Military Affairs to conduct a commercial motor vehicle  
52 driver license testing pilot program; specifying

53 testing locations and funding; requiring the  
 54 departments to submit a report to the Legislature by a  
 55 specified date; providing for repeal of the program;  
 56 providing an effective date.

57

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

59

60 Section 1. Subsection (12) of section 401.27, Florida  
 61 Statutes, is amended to read:

62 401.27 Personnel; standards and certification.—

63 (12) An applicant for certification as an emergency  
 64 medical technician or paramedic who is trained outside the  
 65 state, or trained in the military, must provide proof of a  
 66 current, nationally recognized emergency medical technician or  
 67 paramedic certification or registration that is recognized by  
 68 the department and based upon successful completion of a  
 69 training program approved by the department as being equivalent  
 70 to the most recent EMT-Basic or EMT-Paramedic National Standard  
 71 Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United  
 72 States Department of Transportation and hold a current  
 73 certificate of successful course completion in cardiopulmonary  
 74 resuscitation (CPR) or advanced cardiac life support for  
 75 emergency medical technicians or paramedics, respectively, to be  
 76 eligible for the certification examination. ~~The applicant must~~  
 77 ~~successfully complete the certification examination within 2~~  
 78 ~~years after the date of the receipt of his or her application by~~

79 ~~the department. After 2 years, the applicant must submit a new~~  
 80 ~~application, meet all eligibility requirements, and submit all~~  
 81 ~~fees to reestablish eligibility to take the certification~~  
 82 ~~examination.~~

83 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 456.024,  
 84 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

85 456.024 Members of United States Armed Forces in good  
 86 standing with administrative boards or the department; spouses;  
 87 licensure.—

88 (3) (a) A person is eligible for licensure as a health care  
 89 practitioner in this state if he or she:

90 1. ~~who~~ Serves or has served as a health care practitioner  
 91 in the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve  
 92 Forces, or the National Guard;

93 2. ~~or a person who~~ Serves or has served on active duty  
 94 with the United States Armed Forces as a health care  
 95 practitioner in the United States Public Health Service; or

96 3. Is a health care practitioner in another state, the  
 97 District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United  
 98 States and is the spouse of a person serving on active duty with  
 99 the United States Armed Forces ~~is eligible for licensure in this~~  
 100 ~~state.~~

101  
 102 The department shall develop an application form, and each  
 103 board, or the department if there is no board, shall waive the  
 104 application fee, licensure fee, and unlicensed activity fee for

HB 7105

2016

105 such applicants. For purposes of this subsection, "health care  
106 practitioner" means a health care practitioner as defined in s.  
107 456.001 and a person licensed under part III of chapter 401 or  
108 part IV of chapter 468.

109 (b)~~(a)~~ The board, or the department if there is no board,  
110 shall issue a license to practice in this state to a person who:

111 1. Submits a complete application.

112 2. If he or she is member of the United States Armed  
113 Forces, submits proof that he or she has received ~~Receives~~ an  
114 honorable discharge within 6 months before, or will receive an  
115 honorable discharge within 6 months after, the date of  
116 submission of the application.

117 3.a. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by  
118 another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or  
119 territory of the United States and who has not had disciplinary  
120 action taken against him or her in the 5 years preceding the  
121 date of submission of the application;

122 b. Is a military health care practitioner in a profession  
123 for which licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required  
124 to practice in the United States Armed Forces, if he or she  
125 submits to the department evidence of military training or  
126 experience substantially equivalent to the requirements for  
127 licensure in this state in that profession and evidence that he  
128 or she has obtained a passing score on the appropriate  
129 examination of a national or regional standards organization if  
130 required for licensure in this state; or

131 c. Is the spouse of a person serving on active duty in the  
132 United States Armed Forces and is a health care practitioner in  
133 a profession for which licensure in another state or  
134 jurisdiction is not required, if he or she submits to the  
135 department evidence of training or experience substantially  
136 equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state in  
137 that profession and evidence that he or she has obtained a  
138 passing score on the appropriate examination of a national or  
139 regional standards organization if required for licensure in  
140 this state.

141 4. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of  
142 submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary  
143 proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license  
144 or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons  
145 related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is  
146 applying.

147 5. Actively practiced the profession for which he or she  
148 is applying for the 3 years preceding the date of submission of  
149 the application.

150 6. Submits a set of fingerprints for a background  
151 screening pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the  
152 profession for which he or she is applying.

153  
154 The department shall verify information submitted by the  
155 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner  
156 Data Bank.

157        (c)~~(b)~~ Each applicant who meets the requirements of this  
 158 subsection shall be licensed with all rights and  
 159 responsibilities as defined by law. The applicable board, or the  
 160 department if there is no board, may deny an application if the  
 161 applicant has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo  
 162 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or  
 163 misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession  
 164 regulated by this state.

165        (d)~~(e)~~ An applicant for initial licensure under this  
 166 subsection must submit the information required by ss.  
 167 456.039(1) and 456.0391(1) no later than 1 year after the  
 168 license is issued.

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

173            ~~1. A completed application upon a form prepared and  
 174 furnished by the department in accordance with the board's  
 175 rules;~~

176            ~~2. The required application fee;~~

177            ~~3. Proof that the applicant is married to a member of the  
 178 Armed Forces of the United States who is on active duty;~~

179            ~~4. Proof that the applicant holds a valid license for the  
 180 profession issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or  
 181 a possession or territory of the United States, and is not the  
 182 subject of any disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction in~~

183 ~~which the applicant holds a license to practice a profession~~  
184 ~~regulated by this chapter;~~

185 ~~5. Proof that the applicant's spouse is assigned to a duty~~  
186 ~~station in this state pursuant to the member's official active~~  
187 ~~duty military orders; and~~

188 ~~6. Proof that the applicant would otherwise be entitled to~~  
189 ~~full licensure under the appropriate practice act, and is~~  
190 ~~eligible to take the respective licensure examination as~~  
191 ~~required in Florida.~~

192 ~~(b) The applicant must also submit to the Department of~~  
193 ~~Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints. The Department~~  
194 ~~of Law Enforcement shall conduct a statewide criminal history~~  
195 ~~check and forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of~~  
196 ~~Investigation for a national criminal history check.~~

197 ~~(c) Each board, or the department if there is no board,~~  
198 ~~shall review the results of the state and federal criminal~~  
199 ~~history checks according to the level 2 screening standards in~~  
200 ~~s. 435.04 when granting an exemption and when granting or~~  
201 ~~denying the temporary license.~~

202 ~~(d) The applicant shall pay the cost of fingerprint~~  
203 ~~processing. If the fingerprints are submitted through an~~  
204 ~~authorized agency or vendor, the agency or vendor shall collect~~  
205 ~~the required processing fees and remit the fees to the~~  
206 ~~Department of Law Enforcement.~~

207 ~~(e) The department shall set an application fee, which may~~  
208 ~~not exceed the cost of issuing the license.~~



209 ~~(f) A temporary license expires 12 months after the date~~  
 210 ~~of issuance and is not renewable.~~

211 ~~(g) An applicant for a temporary license under this~~  
 212 ~~subsection is subject to the requirements under s. 456.013(3)(a)~~  
 213 ~~and (c).~~

214 ~~(h) An applicant shall be deemed ineligible for a~~  
 215 ~~temporary license pursuant to this section if the applicant:~~

216 ~~1. Has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to,~~  
 217 ~~regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to~~  
 218 ~~the practice of a health care profession;~~

219 ~~2. Has had a health care provider license revoked or~~  
 220 ~~suspended from another of the United States, the District of~~  
 221 ~~Columbia, or a United States territory;~~

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

225 ~~4. Has previously failed the Florida examination required~~  
 226 ~~to receive a license to practice the profession for which the~~  
 227 ~~applicant is seeking a license.~~

228 ~~(i) The board, or department if there is no board, may~~  
 229 ~~revoke a temporary license upon finding that the individual~~  
 230 ~~violated the profession's governing practice act.~~

231 ~~(j) An applicant who is issued a temporary professional~~  
 232 ~~license to practice as a dentist pursuant to this section must~~  
 233 ~~practice under the indirect supervision, as defined in s.~~  
 234 ~~466.003, of a dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 466.~~

235 Section 3. Section 456.0241, Florida Statutes, is created  
 236 to read:

237 456.0241 Temporary certificate for active duty military  
 238 health care practitioners.—

239 (1) As used in this section, the term:

240 (a) "Military health care practitioner" means:

241 1. A person practicing as a health care practitioner as  
 242 defined in s. 456.001, as a person licensed under part III of  
 243 chapter 401, or as a person licensed under part IV of chapter  
 244 468 who is serving on active duty in the United States Armed  
 245 Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard;  
 246 or

247 2. A person who is serving on active duty in the United  
 248 States Armed Forces and serving in the United States Public  
 249 Health Service.

250 (b) "Military platform" means a military training  
 251 agreement with a nonmilitary health care provider that is  
 252 designed to develop and support medical, surgical, or other  
 253 health care treatment opportunities in a nonmilitary health care  
 254 provider setting to authorize a military health care  
 255 practitioner to develop and maintain the technical proficiency  
 256 necessary to meet the present and future health care needs of  
 257 the United States Armed Forces. Such agreements may include  
 258 Training Affiliation Agreements and External Resource Sharing  
 259 Agreements.

260 (2) The department may issue a temporary certificate to an

261 active duty military health care practitioner to practice in a  
262 regulated profession in this state if the applicant:

263 (a) Submits proof that he or she will be practicing  
264 pursuant to a military platform.

265 (b) Submits a complete application and a nonrefundable  
266 application fee.

267 (c) Holds an active, unencumbered license to practice as a  
268 health care professional issued by another state, the District  
269 of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States  
270 or is a military health care practitioner in a profession for  
271 which licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required for  
272 practice in the United States Armed Forces and provides evidence  
273 of military training and experience substantially equivalent to  
274 the requirements for licensure in this state in that profession.

275 (d) Attests that he or she is not, at the time of  
276 submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary  
277 proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license  
278 or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons  
279 related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is  
280 applying.

281 (e) Has been determined to be competent in the profession  
282 for which he or she is applying.

283 (f) Submits a set of fingerprints for a background  
284 screening pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the  
285 profession for which he or she is applying.  
286

287 The department shall verify information submitted by the  
 288 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner  
 289 Data Bank.

290 (3) A temporary certificate issued under this section  
 291 expires 6 months after issuance but may be renewed upon proof of  
 292 continuing military orders for active duty assignment in this  
 293 state and evidence that the military health care practitioner  
 294 continues to be a military platform participant.

295 (4) A military health care practitioner applying for a  
 296 temporary certificate under this section is exempt from ss.  
 297 456.039-456.046. All other provisions of this chapter apply to  
 298 such military health care practitioner.

299 (5) An applicant for a temporary certificate under this  
 300 section is deemed ineligible if he or she:

301 (a) Has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo  
 302 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or  
 303 misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession;

304 (b) Has had a health care provider license revoked or  
 305 suspended in another state, the District of Columbia, or a  
 306 possession or territory of the United States;

307 (c) Has failed to obtain a passing score on the Florida  
 308 examination required to receive a license to practice the  
 309 profession for which he or she is applying; or

310 (d) Is under investigation in another jurisdiction for an  
 311 act that would constitute a violation of the applicable  
 312 licensing chapter or this chapter until the investigation is

313 complete and all charges against him or her are disposed of by  
314 dismissal, nolle prosequi, or acquittal.

315 (6) The department shall, by rule, set an application fee  
316 not to exceed \$50 and a renewal fee not to exceed \$50.

317 (7) Application shall be made on a form prescribed and  
318 furnished by the department.

319 (8) The department shall adopt rules to implement this  
320 section.

321 Section 4. Section 489.1131, Florida Statutes, is created  
322 to read:

323 489.1131 Credit for relevant military training and  
324 education.-

325 (1) The department shall provide a method by which  
326 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The  
327 method must include a veteran-specific application and provide:

328 (a) To the fullest extent possible, credit toward the  
329 requirements for licensure for military experience, training,  
330 and education received and completed during service in the  
331 United States Armed Forces if the military experience, training,  
332 or education is substantially similar to the experience,  
333 training, or education required for licensure.

334 (b) Acceptance of up to 3 years of active duty service in  
335 the United States Armed Forces, regardless of duty or training,  
336 to meet the experience requirements of s. 489.111(2)(c). At  
337 least 1 additional year of active experience as a foreman in the  
338 trade, either civilian or military, is required to fulfill the

339 experience requirement of s. 489.111(2)(c).

340

341 The board may adopt rules pursuant to s. 120.536(1) and s.  
342 120.54 to implement this subsection.

343 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning  
344 October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the department, in  
345 conjunction with the board, is directed to prepare and submit a  
346 report titled "Construction and Electrical Contracting Veteran  
347 Applicant Statistics" to the Governor, the President of the  
348 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The  
349 report must include statistics and information relating to this  
350 section and s. 489.5161 which detail:

351 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as  
352 veterans.

353 (b) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
354 was approved.

355 (c) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
356 was denied, including the reasons for denial.

357 (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans.

358 (e) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's  
359 ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively  
360 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from  
361 military service and seeking a license regulated by the  
362 department pursuant to part I of chapter 489.

363 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
364 489.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

365 489.511 Certification; application; examinations;  
366 endorsement.—

367 (1)

368 (b) Any person desiring to be certified as a contractor  
369 shall apply to the department in writing and must meet the  
370 following criteria:

371 1. Be of good moral character;

372 2. Pass the certification examination, achieving a passing  
373 grade as established by board rule; and

374 3. Meet eligibility requirements according to one of the  
375 following criteria:

376 a. Has, within the 6 years immediately preceding the  
377 filing of the application, at least 3 years of ~~years~~ proven  
378 management experience in the trade or education equivalent  
379 thereto, or a combination thereof, but not more than one-half of  
380 such experience may be educational equivalent;

381 b. Has, within the 8 years immediately preceding the  
382 filing of the application, at least 4 years of ~~years~~ experience  
383 as a supervisor or contractor in the trade for which he or she  
384 is making application, or at least 4 years of experience as a  
385 supervisor in electrical or alarm system work with the United  
386 States Armed Forces;

387 c. Has, within the 12 years immediately preceding the  
388 filing of the application, at least 6 years of comprehensive  
389 training, technical education, or supervisory experience  
390 associated with an electrical or alarm system contracting

391 business, or at least 6 years of technical experience,  
 392 education, or training in electrical or alarm system work with  
 393 the United States Armed Forces or a governmental entity;

394 d. Has, within the 12 years immediately preceding the  
 395 filing of the application, been licensed for 3 years as a  
 396 professional engineer who is qualified by education, training,  
 397 or experience to practice electrical engineering; or

398 e. Has any combination of qualifications under sub-  
 399 subparagraphs a.-c. totaling 6 years of experience.

400 Section 6. Section 489.5161, Florida Statutes, is created  
 401 to read:

402 489.5161 Credit for relevant military training and  
 403 education.-

404 (1) The department shall provide a method by which  
 405 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The  
 406 method must include a veteran-specific application and provide,  
 407 to the fullest extent possible, credit toward the requirements  
 408 for licensure for military experience, training, and education  
 409 received and completed during service in the United States Armed  
 410 Forces if the military experience, training, or education is  
 411 substantially similar to the experience, training, or education  
 412 required for licensure. The board may adopt rules pursuant to s.  
 413 120.536(1) and s. 120.54 to implement this subsection.

414 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning  
 415 October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the department, in  
 416 conjunction with the board, is directed to prepare and submit a



417 report titled "Construction and Electrical Contracting Veteran  
418 Applicant Statistics" to the Governor, the President of the  
419 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The  
420 report shall include statistics and information relating to this  
421 section and s. 489.1131 which detail:

422 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as  
423 veterans.

424 (b) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
425 was approved.

426 (c) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
427 was denied, including data on the reasons for denial.

428 (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans.

429 (e) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's  
430 ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively  
431 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from  
432 military service and seeking a license regulated by the  
433 department pursuant to part II of chapter 489.

434 Section 7. Section 493.61035, Florida Statutes, is created  
435 to read:

436 493.61035 Credit for relevant military training and  
437 education.—

438 (1) The department shall provide a method by which  
439 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The  
440 method must include:

441 (a) To the fullest extent possible, credit toward the  
442 requirements for licensure for military training and education

443 received and completed during service in the United States Armed  
444 Forces if the military training or education is substantially  
445 similar to the training or education required for licensure.

446 (b) Identification of overlaps and gaps between the  
447 requirements for licensure and the military training or  
448 education received and completed by the veteran, and subsequent  
449 notification to the veteran of the overlaps and gaps.

450 (c) Assistance in identifying programs that offer training  
451 and education needed to meet the requirements for licensure.

452 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning  
453 October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the department is  
454 directed to prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the  
455 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
456 Representatives. In addition to any other information that the  
457 Legislature may require, the report must include statistics and  
458 relevant information which detail:

459 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as  
460 veterans.

461 (b) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
462 was approved.

463 (c) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
464 was denied, including the reasons for denial.

465 (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans.

466 (e) The department's efforts to assist veterans in  
467 identifying programs that offer training and education needed to  
468 meet the requirements for licensure.

HB 7105

2016

469 (f) The department's identification of the most common  
470 overlaps and gaps between the requirements for licensure and the  
471 military training and education received and completed by the  
472 veterans.

473 (g) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's  
474 ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively  
475 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from  
476 military service and seeking a license for a profession or  
477 occupation regulated by the department pursuant to chapter 493.

478 Section 8. (1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
479 Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs shall jointly  
480 conduct a pilot program to provide onsite commercial motor  
481 vehicle driver license testing opportunities to qualified  
482 members of the Florida National Guard pursuant to the Department  
483 of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles commercial motor vehicle  
484 driver license skills test waiver under s. 322.12, Florida  
485 Statutes. Testing must be held at a Florida National Guard  
486 Armory, a Florida United States Armed Forces Reserve Center, or  
487 the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. The pilot program shall  
488 be accomplished using existing funds appropriated to each  
489 department.

490 (2) By June 30, 2017, the Department of Highway Safety and  
491 Motor Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs shall  
492 jointly submit a report on the results of the pilot program to  
493 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
494 Representatives.

HB 7105

2016

495 | (3) This section is repealed October 1, 2017, and shall  
496 | not be codified in the Florida Statutes.

497 | Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.