

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to occupational licensure of military
 3 spouses; amending s. 456.024, F.S.; requiring the
 4 Department of Health or the applicable board to issue
 5 a professional license to spouses of active duty
 6 members of the Armed Forces of the United States if
 7 certain requirements are met; requiring the department
 8 to waive the application fee for such license
 9 applications; authorizing applicants issued such
 10 licenses to renew their licenses if certain
 11 requirements are met; providing construction;
 12 requiring the department or applicable board to
 13 expedite applications for such licenses; conforming
 14 provisions to changes made by the act; providing an
 15 effective date.

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

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 19 Section 1. Paragraphs (a), (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), and
 20 (i) of subsection (4) of section 456.024, Florida Statutes, are
 21 amended, and paragraph (j) is added to that subsection, to read:

22 456.024 Members of Armed Forces in good standing with
 23 administrative boards or the department; spouses; licensure.—

24 (4) (a) The board, or the department if there is no board,
 25 shall ~~may~~ issue a ~~temporary~~ professional license to the spouse

26 | of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United
 27 | States who submits to the department:

28 | 1. A completed application upon a form prepared and
 29 | furnished by the department in accordance with the board's
 30 | rules;

31 | 2. ~~The required application fee;~~

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

34 | 3.4. Proof that the applicant holds a valid license for
 35 | the profession issued by another state, the District of
 36 | Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States, and
 37 | is not the subject of any disciplinary proceeding in any
 38 | jurisdiction in which the applicant holds a license to practice
 39 | a profession regulated by this chapter;

40 | ~~4.5.~~ Proof that the applicant's spouse is assigned to a
 41 | duty station in this state pursuant to the member's official
 42 | active duty military orders; and

43 | ~~5.6.~~ Proof that the applicant would otherwise be entitled
 44 | to full licensure under the appropriate practice act, and is
 45 | eligible to take the respective licensure examination as
 46 | required in Florida.

47 | (c) Each board, or the department if there is no board,
 48 | shall review the results of the state and federal criminal
 49 | history checks according to the level 2 screening standards in
 50 | s. 435.04 when granting an exemption and when granting or

51 denying the ~~temporary~~ license.

52 (e) The department shall waive the applicant's licensure
 53 ~~set an application fee, which may not exceed the cost of issuing~~
 54 ~~the license.~~

55 (f) An applicant issued a license under this subsection
 56 may renew such license upon completion of the conditions for
 57 renewal required of licenseholders under the applicable practice
 58 act, including, without limitation, continuing education
 59 requirements. This paragraph does not limit waiver of initial
 60 licensure requirements under this subsection ~~A temporary license~~
 61 ~~expires 12 months after the date of issuance and is not~~
 62 ~~renewable.~~

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

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

68 1. Has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to,
 69 regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to
 70 the practice of a health care profession;

71 2. Has had a health care provider license revoked or
 72 suspended from another of the United States, the District of
 73 Columbia, or a United States territory;

74 3. Has been reported to the National Practitioner Data
 75 Bank, unless the applicant has successfully appealed to have his

76 | or her name removed from the data bank; or

77 | 4. Has previously failed the Florida examination required
78 | to receive a license to practice the profession for which the
79 | applicant is seeking a license.

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

83 | (j) The board, or the department if there is no board,
84 | shall expedite all applications submitted by a spouse of an
85 | active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States
86 | pursuant to this section that satisfy the requirements of
87 | paragraph (a).

88 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.