

2018

Military Service Member and Military Spouse Licensing Report

DECEMBER 2018

Report Requirement

Senate Bill 5359, adopted during the 2017 regular legislative session, charged the Department of Licensing (the Department) and the Department of Health to file a report to the legislature biennially and the Washington State military transition council annually beginning January 1, 2018, to provide updates on progress in our efforts to implement the requirements of chapter 18.340 RCW, chapter 23, Laws of 2011, and chapter 351, Laws of 2011.

This report contains background information and updates on progress efforts.

Background Information

The Department issues professional and business licenses for 39 non-health related programs.

There are approximately 230,000 active professional licensees and about 35,000 active business licensees.

For professional licenses, the department ensures individuals meet or exceed the minimum qualifications before being licensed. The department reviews education and experience, administers examinations, conducts background checks, and ensures continuing education requirements are met.

Professional licenses regulated by the department are as follows:

- Architects
- Auctioneers
- Bail Bond Agents and Bail Recovery Agents
- Tattooing, Body Art & Body Piercing
- Engineers
- Camping Resort Sales
- Combative Sports
- Cosmetologists
- Court Reporters
- Driver Training School Instructors
- Funeral Directors and Embalmers
- Geologists
- Home Inspectors
- Landscape Architects
- Land Surveyors
- Notaries Public
- On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Private Investigators
- Real Estate Brokers
- Real Estate Appraisers
- Security Guards
- Timeshare Sales

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After license issuance, the department's regulatory functions include conducting audits and inspections and resolving complaints with or without administrative action. When warranted, the department may take appropriate administrative action that includes fines, license denials, suspensions and revocations.

The department also provides information, engages in education of licensees or the public, and conducts outreach efforts.

Professional licensees generally experience very little delay in getting their license applications approved. The Department has an average of 90% on-time for processing licensee applications. Many of the Department's licensee programs have comity with other jurisdictions (reciprocity). This makes it easier for individuals from other states to transfer their licenses into Washington, to include military spouses.

Most Department of Licensing professions are regulated under authority of the Director. The following have regulatory Boards:

- Architect Board
- Collection Agency Board
- Funeral and Cemetery Board
- Geologist Board
- Landscape Architects Board
- Board of Registration for Engineers and Land Surveyors

Progress and future steps

The Department has been making guidelines around working with military spouses. Due to low demand, it has taken time to get adequate information to proceed.

We published information for military transferees that is linked from our "Moving to WA?" section of the Department's home page. It encourages military members or their spouses to contact us regarding assistance we may be able to provide when seeking a professional or business license. (<http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/militarylicense.html>)

The Department is currently engaged in rulemaking related to military spouses for all of its professional and business license programs. In brief, these rules clarify requirements for:

- Military spouses making their Washington license inactive; and
- Military spouse applicants able to receive a temporary license;

We filed a CR 101 on January 30, 2018; plan on filing a CR 102 in January 2019; and adopting the language in early Spring 2019. This rulemaking impacts professions under the authority of the Director; those professions under various Boards will be incorporated in 2019-2020. The Department will work closely with Boards to adopt similar language.

Other activities DOL is engaged in regarding serving military members and their spouses include:

- Since 2013, DOL assisted with the establishment of the Washington State Veteran Employee Resource Group (VERG) and continues to participate. Since 2014, DOL established and maintained its own internal VERG. Both groups have assisted, coached, and mentored hundreds of transitioning service members and their spouses with State employment and further career progress. These groups have been involved in hiring events and employment workshops resulting in DOL hiring over 40 veterans and their spouses a year for the past three years. This year DOL is set to hire up to 60 veterans due to the VERG efforts.
- DOL Representatives attend career fairs – many are related specifically to military members and spouses.
 - A brochure on popular professional and business licenses will be available for distribution at these career fairs and other events beginning spring 2019.
- DOL co-chairs a Washington State Military Transition Council workgroup regarding license portability for military spouses and veterans. We also participate on the WSMTC work group regarding military spouse employment and professional development.
 - Workgroup is focusing on improving access to web-based license and certificate information for veterans and military spouses and creating an inventory of licenses and certificates in Washington. The workgroup will also identify which licenses are priorities for veterans and military spouses.

The Department is open to feedback and suggestions on how to better serve military members and their spouses.