

**Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1246
(Representatives Meier, Becker, Grande, Rohr, Ruby, Steiner, Weisz)
(Senators Dever, J. Lee)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 43-51 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to occupational and professional licensure of military spouses; to amend and reenact section 43-51-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to occupational and professional licensure of military spouses; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 43-51-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-51-01. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

1. "Board" means a board, commission, or other agency of state government created or identified in this title to regulate a particular occupation or profession, ~~except for the:~~
 - a. The term does not include the:
 - (1) State board of accountancy;
 - ~~b.(2)~~ State electrical board;
 - ~~e.(3)~~ North Dakota real estate appraiser qualifications and ethics board;
 - ~~d.(4)~~ State real estate commission;
 - ~~e.(5)~~ Secretary of state with respect to contractor licensing;
 - ~~f.(6)~~ State board of medical examiners; and
 - ~~g.(7)~~ State board of dental examiners.
 - b. "Board" also includes any agency of state government which is created or identified outside this title to regulate a particular occupation or profession if the agency elects, by administrative rule, to invoke the authority in this chapter.
2. "Foreign practitioner" means an individual who currently holds and maintains a license in good standing to engage in an occupation or profession in a state or jurisdiction other than this state and who is not the subject of a pending disciplinary action in any state or jurisdiction.
3. "Good standing" means a foreign practitioner holds a current license that is not issued on a temporary or restricted basis, is not encumbered or on probation, and is not suspended or revoked.
4. "License" means a license, certificate, permit, or similar authorization to practice an occupation or profession which is issued by a government agency in another state or jurisdiction that imposes requirements for obtaining and maintaining a license which are at least as stringent as the requirements imposed in this state to obtain and maintain a license to practice the same profession or occupation.

5. "Military spouse" means a foreign practitioner who is the spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States stationed in this state in accordance with military orders or stationed in this state before a temporary assignment to duties outside of this state.
6. "Occupation or profession" means activity for which a license is required from a board or similar activity for which a license is required in another state or jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 43-51 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Military spouses - Licensure.

1. A board shall adopt rules regarding licensure of a military spouse and shall grant on a case-by-case basis exceptions to the board's licensing standards to allow a military spouse to practice the occupation or profession in the state if upon application to the board:
 - a. The military spouse demonstrates competency in the occupation or profession through methods or standards determined by the board which must include experience in the occupation or profession for at least two of the four years preceding the date of application under this section;
 - b. The military spouse pays any fees required by the board from which the applicant is seeking a license; and
 - c. The board determines the exception will not substantially increase the risk of harm to the public.
2. Under subsection 1, a board may issue a provisional license or temporary permit to a military spouse for which one or more of the licensure requirements have not been met. A provisional license or temporary permit issued under this subsection remains valid while the military spouse is making progress toward satisfying the necessary unmet licensure requirements. A military spouse may practice under a provisional license or temporary permit issued under this subsection until any of the following occurs:
 - a. The board grants or denies the military spouse a North Dakota license under subsection 1 or grants a North Dakota license under the traditional licensure method;
 - b. The provisional license or temporary permit expires; or
 - c. The military spouse fails to comply with the terms of the provisional license or temporary permit.
3. A board that is exempted from this chapter under subdivision a of subsection 1 of section 43-51-01 may issue a license, provisional license, or temporary permit to a military spouse in the same manner as provided under subsections 1 and 2. A board that may elect to subject the board to this chapter under subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 43-51-01 may issue a license, provisional license, or temporary permit to a military spouse in the same manner as provided under subsections 1 and 2 regardless of whether the board has adopted rules to subject the board to this chapter. The state board of architecture and landscape architecture is exempt from the mandate in subsection 1; however, the board voluntarily may issue a license, provisional license, or temporary permit under subsections 1 and 2.
4. A military spouse issued a license under this section has the same rights and duties as a licensee issued a license under the traditional licensure method.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1246 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 91 Nays 0 Absent 3

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2013.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2013.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2013,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State