



UPDATE ON MILITARY LICENSING AND PORTABILITY

Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs
December 3, 2025



Expedited Military Licensure

“The department sustains its commitment to the implementation of expedited licensure processes for military servicemembers, spouses or registered domestic partners.”



Legislation Implementation Highlights

ESSB 5969 and ESSB 5307 (2011-2012) have been fully implemented.

These bills required the department to:

- **5969** – expedite licensure processes for military spouses by way of issuing a temporary practice permit when deemed feasible.
- **5307** – when deemed substantially equivalent, to accept military education, training and experience towards meeting licensure requirements for certain health professions.

Legislation Implementation Highlights

2SHB 1009 (2023) has been partially implemented. The bill requires each disciplining authority to:

- Provide training for board and commission members on the culture, experience and issues related to military spouse career paths, and within 90-days of appointment of new members.
- Issue temporary licenses within 30 days for military spouses or partners for up to 180 days.
- Adopt rules to eliminate the previous employment requirement in another state when reassigned on orders to WA.
- Create and maintain a military spouse assistance web page and identify a designated liaison to assist credential seekers.

Currently Available Licensure Compacts

The department has implemented the following Interstate licensure compacts:

- Allopathic and Osteopathic physicians
- Physical therapists and assistants
- Psychologists
- Nurses (RNs, LPNs only)

Licensure Compacts Being Implemented

The department is implementing the following compacts that have recently reached the required number of participating states:

- Audiologists and speech-language pathologists
- Mental health counselors
- Occupational therapists
- Dentists and dental hygienists
- Social workers
- Physician assistants
- Respiratory therapists



Credentials issued to Servicemembers and Spouses

In Fiscal Year 2024 the department issued:

- 129 credentials to servicemembers
 - ◆ 160 in FY 23
- 1,300 credentials to military spouses or partners
 - ◆ 1,292 in FY 23

Military-trained Credentialing # of Days to Licensure by Application Types (FY24)

Issued a total of 129 credentials to military service members in FY24 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

- **114** were **routine applications*** of which 100 percent were issued in under 30-days and on average 16 business days of receiving all required documents.
- **15** were **non-routine or exception applications*** of which 100 percent in under 30-days and on average 14 business days of receiving all required documents.

**Non-routine and exception applications are those with issues that must be presented to the board or commission for approval.*

Military-affiliated Credentialing # of Days to Licensure by Application Types (FY24)

The department issued a total of 1,300 credentials to military spouses or partners in FY24 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

- **1,212** were **routine applications*** of which 100 percent were issued in 30 days or less and on average 11 business days of receiving all required documents.
- **88** were **non-routine or exception applications*** of which 100 percent were issued in 30 days or less and on average 19 business days of receiving all required documents.

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