

**SB37 ENGROSSED**



1 BHC344-2

2 By Senators Givhan, Butler, Kelley, Livingston, Barfoot, Bell,

3 Carnley, Hatcher, Scofield, Chesteen, Orr, Jones

4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs

5 First Read: 07-Mar-23

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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act;  
to amend Section 31-1-6, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by  
Act 2022-92, 2022 Regular Session, to extend professional  
license reciprocity to spouses of United States Department of  
Defense civil servants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 31-1-6, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
last amended by Section 1 of Act 2022-92 of the 2022 Regular  
Session, is amended to read as follows:

"§31-1-6

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the  
Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (h), and  
notwithstanding other provisions of law, this section shall  
apply to any board, agency, commission, or other entity  
providing professional licenses or certificates, or both, for  
the purpose of employment in the State of Alabama. On or  
before January 1, 2023, each board, agency, or commission  
providing professional licenses or certificates, or both,  
shall adopt rules in conformity with this section for the



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29 purpose of implementing its requirements. The rules shall  
30 provide a method of accomplishing both of the following:

31 (1) The issuance of a license or certificate to an  
32 eligible individual, within 30 days of application, if the  
33 certification or license of the original issuing state or  
34 governing body is similar to that requested from this state,  
35 as provided in subsection (d).

36 (2) A procedure for authorizing an eligible individual  
37 to perform professional services regulated by the board,  
38 agency, or commission in this state pursuant to a temporary  
39 permit, effective for at least 360 days, while the board,  
40 agency, or commission deliberates the application to obtain a  
41 license or certificate in this state, as provided in  
42 subsection (d).

43 (c) For the purposes of this section, an "eligible  
44 individual" is any individual who satisfies all of the  
45 following:

46 (1) Is the spouse of any of the following:

47 a. An active duty, reserve, or transitioning member of  
48 the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard,  
49 or a surviving spouse of a service member who, at the time of  
50 his or her death, was serving on active duty, who is relocated  
51 to and stationed in the State of Alabama under official  
52 military orders. For the purposes of this ~~section~~ paragraph, a  
53 "transitioning ~~service~~ member" is ~~a member of the United~~  
54 ~~States Armed Forces, including the National Guard,~~ on active  
55 duty status or on separation leave who is within 24 months of  
56 retirement.



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57           b. An individual currently employed by the United  
58 States Department of Justice or any of its encompassed  
59 offices, agencies, institutes, and bureaus, including, but not  
60 limited to, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the  
61 U.S. Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
62 Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Drug Enforcement  
63 Administration (DEA), and the United States Marshal Service  
64 (USMS), who is relocated to Alabama by order of their  
65 employer.

66           c. An individual currently employed at the National  
67 Aeronautics and Space Administration who is relocated to  
68 Alabama by order of their employer.

69           d. An individual currently employed in Alabama as a  
70 civil servant for the United States Department of Defense.

71           (2) Has not committed or participated in an act that  
72 would constitute grounds for refusal, suspension, or  
73 revocation of a professional license or certificate.

74           (3) Has not been disciplined by an authorized entity or  
75 under investigation, in any jurisdiction, in relation to a  
76 professional license or certificate.

77           (d) Any eligible individual under subsection (c) who  
78 possesses a valid license or certificate, in good standing, in  
79 another state, district, or territory of the United States, or  
80 in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the  
81 National Guard, that is substantially similar to the license  
82 issued by the appropriate board, agency, or commission in the  
83 State of Alabama shall be approved to continue work in his or  
84 her profession upon relocation to the State of Alabama for



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85 such time as normally allotted with receipt of a license or  
86 certificate from the appropriate board, agency, or commission.  
87 Upon completion of an application, an authorized board,  
88 agency, or commission shall expedite the application according  
89 to statute, adopted rules, or if applicable, at the next  
90 scheduled licensure proceeding for an eligible individual  
91 under subsection (c).

92 (e) Any board, agency, or commission in the State of  
93 Alabama may establish reciprocity with other states for  
94 military spouse professional licensing and certification.

95 (f) Any board, agency, commission, or other entity  
96 providing professional licenses or certificates, or both, for  
97 the purpose of employment in this state, that is created after  
98 April 6, 2018, shall adopt the rules required by this section  
99 within one year after the date of its initial organizational  
100 meeting.

101 (g) Any board, agency, commission, or other entity  
102 providing professional licenses or certificates, or both, for  
103 the purpose of employment in the state, shall waive the  
104 initial licensing fee for the eligible individual upon  
105 application by the eligible individual in a manner prescribed  
106 by the board, agency, commission, or other entity. The board,  
107 agency, commission, or other entity shall process an  
108 application for a fee waiver within 30 days after receiving  
109 the application.

110 (h) This section does not apply to the practice of law  
111 or the regulation of attorneys, any license or registration  
112 issued by the Securities Commission under the Alabama



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113 Securities Act, any certification issued by the Alabama Peace  
114 Officers' Standards and Training Commission, or the practice  
115 of any profession regulated by the Alabama State Board of  
116 Pharmacy, Board of Optometry, Board of Dental Examiners, State  
117 Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Alabama Liquefied Petroleum  
118 Gas Board, or State Board of Medical Examiners."

119           Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first  
120 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
121 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.



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124 Senate

125 Read for the first time and referred .....07-Mar-23  
126 to the Senate committee on Veterans  
127 and Military Affairs  
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129 Read for the second time and placed .....23-Mar-23  
130 on the calendar:  
131 0 amendments  
132  
133 Read for the third time and passed .....13-Apr-23  
134 as amended  
135 Yeas 31  
136 Nays 0  
137 Abstains 0  
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Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.