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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2303**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** House Housing, Community Development & Veterans (originally sponsored by Representatives Leavitt, Dufault, MacEwen, Gildon, Kirby, Fey, Morgan, Barkis, Kilduff, Dolan, Ryu, Young, Wylie, Doglio, Volz, and Appleton)

1 AN ACT Relating to professional licensing requirements for  
2 service members and military spouses; amending RCW 18.340.010; adding  
3 new sections to chapter 18.340 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
4 43.24 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.22 RCW; and creating a  
5 new section.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the  
8 serve act.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.340.010 and 2011 2nd sp.s. c 5 s 1 are each  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 The lives of military families are dominated by frequent  
12 deployments, relocations, and extended periods of single parenthood.  
13 ((Military)) Service members and their spouses are some of the most  
14 mobile populations in our country, making the maintenance of  
15 professional licenses a significant obstacle. According to the  
16 ((2010)) 2019 defense management data center, there are ((thirty-  
17 three thousand three hundred eighty active duty and ten thousand  
18 eight hundred thirty-seven)) more than eighty thousand active duty  
19 and reserve service members and nearly forty thousand active duty and  
20 reserve military spouses residing in Washington. Military families

1 depend on two incomes and want to achieve their career goals and  
2 aspirations. It is the intent of the legislature to recognize the  
3 sacrifices made by military families in service to our country and  
4 our state and to help alleviate the (~~hardships~~) career turmoil  
5 military families face due to their highly transient life.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.340  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) For the purposes of this section:

9 (a) "Active duty military spouse" means any person currently  
10 married to someone who is an active or reserve member in any branch  
11 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national  
12 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

13 (b) "Authority" means any board, commission, or other authority  
14 for issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit under  
15 this title.

16 (c) "Provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit"  
17 means authorization to perform the full range of activities allowed  
18 with a standard license, certificate, registration, or permit for a  
19 period of three years, or the duration of a standard license,  
20 certificate, registration, or permit if less than three years.

21 (2) By January 1, 2021, the authority shall establish procedures  
22 to issue a provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit  
23 to perform professional services regulated by the authority to a  
24 member of the armed forces of the United States or an active duty  
25 military spouse who is:

26 (a) Currently holding in good standing a license, certificate,  
27 registration, or permit to perform professional services in another  
28 state, in the District of Columbia, or issued by an agency, bureau,  
29 or department of the United States government;

30 (b) Stationed, or is the spouse of a member of the armed forces  
31 who is stationed, in Washington; and

32 (c) Unable to engage in the practice of the profession through an  
33 interstate compact, reciprocity, or similar agreement.

34 (3) An application for a provisional license, certificate,  
35 registration, or permit must be made in a form and manner as  
36 determined by the authority and include:

37 (a) A copy of the applicant's current license, certificate,  
38 registration, or permit from another state, the District of Columbia,  
39 or an agency, bureau, or department of the United States government;

1 (b) A copy of the applicable permanent change-of-station orders;

2 (c) A statement from the applicant that he or she meets the  
3 qualifications for a provisional license, certificate, registration,  
4 or permit and is not subject to any pending investigation, charges,  
5 or disciplinary action by the regulatory body of the other  
6 jurisdiction or jurisdictions;

7 (d) An application for a criminal background check, if required  
8 for a standard professional license, certificate, registration, or  
9 permit for the same profession; and

10 (e) Proof of national certification, where applicable.

11 (4) The authority may not charge a fee for a provisional license,  
12 certificate, registration, or permit that exceeds the fee for a  
13 standard license, certificate, registration, or permit for the same  
14 profession.

15 (5) The authority must make an eligibility determination within  
16 forty-five days of receipt of a complete application for a  
17 provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit.

18 (6) The authority may act to deny or limit a provisional license,  
19 certificate, registration, or permit application using the same  
20 procedures for a standard license, certificate, registration, or  
21 permit for the same profession.

22 (7) If the authority determines that an applicant for a  
23 provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit holds a  
24 license from a jurisdiction with substantially equivalent  
25 requirements, the authority shall issue a standard license,  
26 certificate, registration, or permit.

27 (8) If a person issued a provisional license, certificate,  
28 registration, or permit subsequently meets the requirements for a  
29 standard license, certificate, registration, or permit, the authority  
30 may issue the person a standard license, certificate, registration,  
31 or permit.

32 (9) The authority may investigate and take disciplinary action  
33 against a person or the person's provisional license, certificate,  
34 registration, or permit using the same procedures for a standard  
35 license, certificate, registration, or permit for the same  
36 profession.

37 (10) If a person with a provisional license, certificate,  
38 registration, or permit no longer meets the qualifications under  
39 subsection (2) of this section or becomes subject to any pending  
40 investigation, charges, or disciplinary action by a regulatory body

1 of another jurisdiction or the license, certification, registration,  
2 or permit issued by another jurisdiction is terminated or no longer  
3 valid, the person must:

4 (a) Immediately cease engaging in the practice of the profession  
5 in Washington; and

6 (b) Report to the authority within thirty days the change in  
7 qualifications, licensing status, or pending investigation, charges,  
8 or disciplinary action.

9 (11) In addition to the requirements of this section, RCW  
10 18.130.064 applies to a member of the armed forces or an active duty  
11 military spouse engaging in the practice of a health profession.

12 (12) By December 1, 2021, and biennially thereafter, each  
13 authority must report to the appropriate committees of the  
14 legislature the number and nature of complaints filed, if any,  
15 against a member of the armed forces or a military spouse engaging in  
16 the practice of a profession under this section and sections 4 and 5  
17 of this act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.24  
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) For the purposes of this section:

21 (a) "Active duty military spouse" means any person currently  
22 married to someone who is an active or reserve member in any branch  
23 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national  
24 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

25 (b) "Department" means the department of licensing.

26 (c) "Provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit"  
27 means authorization to perform the full range of activities allowed  
28 with a standard license, certificate, registration, or permit for a  
29 period of three years, or the duration of a standard license,  
30 certificate, registration, or permit if less than three years.

31 (2) By January 1, 2021, the department shall establish procedures  
32 to issue a provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit  
33 to perform professional services regulated by the department to a  
34 member of the armed forces of the United States or an active duty  
35 military spouse who is:

36 (a) Currently holding in good standing a license, certificate,  
37 registration, or permit to perform professional services in another  
38 state, in the District of Columbia, or issued by an agency, bureau,  
39 or department of the United States government;

1 (b) Stationed, or is the spouse of a member of the armed forces  
2 who is stationed, in Washington; and

3 (c) Unable to engage in the practice of the profession through an  
4 interstate compact, reciprocity, or similar agreement.

5 (3) An application for a provisional license, certificate,  
6 registration, or permit must be made in a form and manner as  
7 determined by the department and include:

8 (a) A copy of the applicant's current license, certificate,  
9 registration, or permit from another state, the District of Columbia,  
10 or an agency, bureau, or department of the United States government;

11 (b) A copy of the applicable permanent change-of-station orders;

12 (c) A statement from the applicant that he or she meets the  
13 qualifications for a provisional license, certificate, registration,  
14 or permit and is not subject to any pending investigation, charges,  
15 or disciplinary action by the regulatory body of the other  
16 jurisdiction or jurisdictions;

17 (d) An application for a criminal background check, if required  
18 for a standard professional license, certificate, registration, or  
19 permit for the same profession; and

20 (e) Proof of national certification, where applicable.

21 (4) The department may not charge a fee for a provisional  
22 license, certificate, registration, or permit that exceeds the fee  
23 for a standard license, certificate, registration, or permit for the  
24 same profession.

25 (5) The department must make an eligibility determination within  
26 forty-five days of receipt of a complete application for a  
27 provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit.

28 (6) The department may act to deny or limit a provisional  
29 license, certificate, registration, or permit application using the  
30 same procedures for a standard license, certificate, registration, or  
31 permit for the same profession.

32 (7) If the department determines that an applicant for a  
33 provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit holds a  
34 license from a jurisdiction with substantially equivalent  
35 requirements, the department shall issue a standard license,  
36 certificate, registration, or permit.

37 (8) If a person issued a provisional license, certificate,  
38 registration, or permit subsequently meets the requirements for a  
39 standard license, certificate, registration, or permit, the

1 department may issue the person a standard license, certificate,  
2 registration, or permit.

3 (9) The department may investigate and take disciplinary action  
4 against a person or the person's provisional license, certificate,  
5 registration, or permit using the same procedures for a standard  
6 license, certificate, registration, or permit for the same  
7 profession.

8 (10) If a person with a provisional license, certificate,  
9 registration, or permit no longer meets the qualifications under  
10 subsection (2) of this section or becomes subject to any pending  
11 investigation, charges, or disciplinary action by a regulatory body  
12 of another jurisdiction or the license, certification, registration,  
13 or permit issued by another jurisdiction is terminated or no longer  
14 valid, the person must:

15 (a) Immediately cease engaging in the practice of the profession  
16 in Washington; and

17 (b) Report to the department within thirty days the change in  
18 qualifications, licensing status, or pending investigation, charges,  
19 or disciplinary action.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.22  
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1) For the purposes of this section:

23 (a) "Active duty military spouse" means any person currently  
24 married to someone who is an active or reserve member in any branch  
25 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national  
26 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

27 (b) "Department" means any board, commission, or other department  
28 for issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit under  
29 this title.

30 (c) "Provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit"  
31 means authorization to perform the full range of activities allowed  
32 with a standard license, certificate, registration, or permit for a  
33 period of three years, or the duration of a standard license,  
34 certificate, registration, or permit if less than three years.

35 (2) By January 1, 2021, the department shall establish procedures  
36 to issue a provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit  
37 to perform professional services regulated by the department to a  
38 member of the armed forces of the United States or an active duty  
39 military spouse who is:

1 (a) Currently holding in good standing a license, certificate,  
2 registration, or permit to perform professional services in another  
3 state, in the District of Columbia, or issued by an agency, bureau,  
4 or department of the United States government;

5 (b) Stationed, or is the spouse of a member of the armed forces  
6 who is stationed, in Washington; and

7 (c) Unable to engage in the practice of the profession through an  
8 interstate compact, reciprocity, or similar agreement.

9 (3) An application for a provisional license, certificate,  
10 registration, or permit must be made in a form and manner as  
11 determined by the department and include:

12 (a) A copy of the applicant's current license, certificate,  
13 registration, or permit from another state, the District of Columbia,  
14 or an agency, bureau, or department of the United States government;

15 (b) A copy of the applicable permanent change-of-station orders;

16 (c) A statement from the applicant that he or she meets the  
17 qualifications for a provisional license, certificate, registration,  
18 or permit and is not subject to any pending investigation, charges,  
19 or disciplinary action by the regulatory body of the other  
20 jurisdiction or jurisdictions;

21 (d) An application for a criminal background check, if required  
22 for a standard professional license, certificate, registration, or  
23 permit for the same profession; and

24 (e) Proof of national certification, where applicable.

25 (4) The department may not charge a fee for a provisional  
26 license, certificate, registration, or permit that exceeds the fee  
27 for a standard license, certificate, registration, or permit for the  
28 same profession.

29 (5) The department must make an eligibility determination within  
30 forty-five days of receipt of a complete application for a  
31 provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit.

32 (6) The department may act to deny or limit a provisional  
33 license, certificate, registration, or permit application using the  
34 same procedures for a standard license, certificate, registration, or  
35 permit for the same profession.

36 (7) If the department determines that an applicant for a  
37 provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit holds a  
38 license from a jurisdiction with substantially equivalent  
39 requirements, the department shall issue a standard license,  
40 certificate, registration, or permit.

1 (8) If a person issued a provisional license, certificate,  
2 registration, or permit subsequently meets the requirements for a  
3 standard license, certificate, registration, or permit, the  
4 department may issue the person a standard license, certificate,  
5 registration, or permit.

6 (9) The department may investigate and take disciplinary action  
7 against a person or the person's provisional license, certificate,  
8 registration, or permit using the same procedures for a standard  
9 license, certificate, registration, or permit for the same  
10 profession.

11 (10) If a person with a provisional license, certificate,  
12 registration, or permit no longer meets the qualifications under  
13 subsection (2) of this section or becomes subject to any pending  
14 investigation, charges, or disciplinary action by a regulatory body  
15 of another jurisdiction or the license, certification, registration,  
16 or permit issued by another jurisdiction is terminated or no longer  
17 valid, the person must:

18 (a) Immediately cease engaging in the practice of the profession  
19 in Washington; and

20 (b) Report to the department within thirty days the change in  
21 qualifications, licensing status, or pending investigation, charges,  
22 or disciplinary action.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.340  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 The employment security department, the department of health, the  
26 department of labor and industries, the department of licensing, and  
27 the department of veterans affairs shall each maintain a military  
28 assistance web page containing the department's rules, regulations,  
29 and procedures related to the professional licensing of veterans,  
30 members of the armed services, and military spouses and links to the  
31 military assistance web pages of other state agencies. A direct link  
32 to the agency's military assistance web page must be displayed on the  
33 agency's home page.

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