



Key DoD Personnel and Readiness Issues Supporting Service Members and Families 2017



VERMONT STATUS

State policy to support identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect: **Red** State laws do not require child protective services to identify military families in cases of child abuse and neglect, or to report cases to the appropriate military authorities. Changes in state law can support both local government and the Military Services concurrently assisting in child abuse or neglect cases involving military families.

National Guard employment protections during state-sponsored activation: **Green** State laws that cover Guard members during state-sponsored mobilizations impact employers within the state. States can modify their laws to protect rights of members of the National Guard during state-sponsored mobilizations who drill outside of the state in which they are employed. *Act 121 signed by governor 5/23/16.*

Allow Service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers: **Red** Because states frequently have long waiting lists, Service members face large gaps in service every time they transfer across state lines. Allowing Service members to enroll their exceptional family member in the State they designate as their legal residence (e.g. where they pay taxes, vote) can stabilize their request for support. *Pending legislation: H32 (Grad).*

Allow private sector employers to offer hiring preference to veterans: **Red** Private sector employers attempting to offer hiring preferences to veterans may be risking claims of discrimination from applicants lacking military experience. States may establish laws or policies that protect private sector employers from discrimination claims when offering hiring preference to veterans. *Failed 2016 legislation: H807 (Grad).*

Facilitate military spouse teacher certification: **Amber** Military spouse teachers often encounter difficulty acquiring licensure in a state after a move. Providing flexibility in states accepting an existing standard certificate, establishing a temporary certificate, or expediting application and adjudication processes may alleviate the delays in garnering certification to teach in that particular state. *While current statute covers temporary licenses, work can still be done on licensure by endorsement and expediting the licensing process.*

Facilitate Service members receiving academic credit for military education, training and experience: **Green** Separating Service members may be held back from finishing a degree. States can assist separating Service members to obtain academic credit by not having to repeat requirements completed while in the military.

Pro-bono legal representation for military families: **Red** Military families have access to legal assistance attorneys for advice and help with important documents, but they must generally obtain their own counsel to represent them in court. State governments can assist by organizing pro-bono programs that can connect qualified attorneys with Service members and their families in need.

Licensing Compacts recognizing separating Service members and military spouses: The Physical Therapy (PT) licensing compact features specific provisions supporting separating Service members and military spouses and is currently being considered by states. Having states enact laws approving this compact further expedites licensure in this occupation for separating Service members and military spouses. *New Issue*

Harold Cooney, 571-309-7598, harold.e.cooney.civ@mail.mil
www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.dod.mil

Increase protection under state Service members Civil Relief Act: Many Service members find difficulty terminating or suspending certain service contracts when transitioning from one duty location to another, when mobilized or when deployed. Certain provisions could be enacted eliminating or reducing the penalties associated with termination of service on short notice. *New Issue. VT Stat Ann Title 12 Sec 553.*

Facilitate military representation on certain state boards and councils: Governors have boards and councils to provide policy and budget recommendations on issues important to health and productivity of communities. Military representatives on these boards/councils may provide insight on the military community's needs, priorities and available resources, which may help boards/councils to better accommodate military members and families into their agenda. *New Issue – research topic.*

Harold Cooney, 571-309-7598, harold.e.cooney.civ@mail.mil
www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.dod.mil