



## Key DoD Personnel and Readiness Issues Supporting Service Members and Families 2020



### VERMONT STATUS

**Licensing Compacts recognizing separating Service members and military spouses:** An increasing number of occupations are establishing compacts that facilitate portability of licenses and opportunities to work in member states with an existing license. Having states enact laws approving these compacts further expedites licensure in these occupations for separating Service members and military spouses. *Pending legislation: S125 (Lyons)/ H425 (Christie) ENLC.*

**Implementation of supportive licensure laws:** **Green** Most states have established laws that support licensure requirements for transitioning Service members and active duty military spouses; however, research has shown that some boards have not fulfilled the intent of these laws. State legislatures can assist by requesting occupational boards report on their efforts to implement these laws.

**Enhanced State Initiatives to Improve Military Spouse License Portability:** States have established various policies to improve license portability for military spouses; however, many of these revised policies do too little to address career turmoil experienced by military spouses. States can continue to make improvements by either revising the process or improving board compliance with previous enacted improvements. *New Issue.*

**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. *Act 177 (2014) While current statute covers teachers, there is no indication procedures have been implemented by the Agency of Education.*

**Advance enrollment:** **Red** Military children attend an average of 6-8 schools during their school life. Military families transferring on official military orders are usually not eligible to register in courses, programs or lotteries for charter/magnet school entry until they are physically located within district boundaries. Schools could allow preliminary registration/enrollment, or application pending military relocation and waive proof of residence until the family has moved. *Pending legislation: H802 (Grad).*

**In-State tuition Continuity:** **Red** In many States, students with a military sponsor stationed in a State are considered in-State for tuition purposes. However, if the sponsor has a change of station out of State between receiving their letter of acceptance and start of classes the student loses this status. States can alleviate this burden by allowing a spouse or child of an active Service member assigned to duty out-of-State to be deemed an in-State resident for purposes of determining tuition/fees at all State learning institutions as long as the spouse or child resides continuously in-State. *Pending legislation: H802 (Grad).*

**Virtual School Enrollment:** Military families seek continuity and stability for their children's education. Virtual schools can provide a bridge for military children transitioning to a new school district where they may no longer have access to specific curricula. Eligible military children could participate without a residence requirement if moving to/from the school within impacted states and for the gaining school, to accept credits taken through the virtual program. *New Issue.*

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**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 Departments concurrently assisting in child abuse or neglect cases involving military families. *Pending legislation: H588 (Grad).*

**Allow Service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers:** **Green** 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.

**“Ask the Question” Campaign:** Encourages states to engage all helping agencies (healthcare, social services, education, and others) to ask the question, “Have you or a family member ever served in the military?” and have the question on all intake forms. State veterans affairs organizations may provide exceptional services to the veteran who self-identifies/seeks those services. *Pending legislation: H769 (Grad).*