

**SB37 INTRODUCED**



1 BHC344-1

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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SYNOPSIS:

The Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act extends professional license reciprocity to eligible individuals, defined as spouses of specified members of the United States Armed Forces and specified federal employees.

This bill would extend professional license reciprocity to spouses of United States Department of Defense civil servants.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to conform to existing definitions in the law.

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; and to make nonsubstantive conforming changes to the law.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 31-1-6, Code of Alabama 1975, as



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29 last amended by Section 1 of Act 2022-92 of the 2022 Regular  
30 Session, is amended to read as follows:

31 "§31-1-6

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

34 (b) Except as provided in subsection (h), and  
35 notwithstanding other provisions of law, this section shall  
36 apply to any ~~board, agency, commission, or other entity~~  
37 ~~providing professional licenses or certificates, or both, for~~  
38 ~~the purpose of employment in the State of Alabama~~ occupational  
39 licensing board, as defined in Section 41-9A-1. On or before  
40 January 1, 2023, each ~~board, agency, or commission providing~~  
41 ~~professional licenses or certificates, or both,~~ occupational  
42 licensing board shall adopt rules in conformity with this  
43 section for the purpose of implementing its requirements. The  
44 rules shall provide a method of accomplishing both of the  
45 following:

46 (1) The issuance of a license or certificate to an  
47 eligible individual, within 30 days of application, if the  
48 certification or license of the original issuing state or  
49 governing body is similar to that requested from this state,  
50 as provided in subsection (d).

51 (2) A procedure for authorizing an eligible individual  
52 to perform professional services regulated by the occupational  
53 licensing board ~~board, agency, or commission in this state~~  
54 pursuant to a temporary permit, effective for at least 360  
55 days, while the board, ~~agency, or commission~~ deliberates the  
56 application to obtain a license or certificate in this state,



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57 as provided in subsection (d).

58 (c) For the purposes of this section, an "eligible  
59 individual" is any individual who satisfies all of the  
60 following:

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

62 a. An active duty, reserve, or transitioning member of  
63 the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard,  
64 or a surviving spouse of a service member who, at the time of  
65 his or her death, was serving on active duty, who is relocated  
66 to and stationed in the State of Alabama under official  
67 military orders. For the purposes of this ~~section~~ paragraph, a  
68 "transitioning ~~service~~ member" is ~~a member of the United~~  
69 ~~States Armed Forces, including the National Guard,~~ on active  
70 duty status or on separation leave who is within 24 months of  
71 retirement.

72 b. An individual currently employed by the United  
73 States Department of Justice or any of its encompassed  
74 offices, agencies, institutes, and bureaus, including, but not  
75 limited to, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the  
76 U.S. Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
77 Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Drug Enforcement  
78 Administration (DEA), and the United States Marshal Service  
79 (USMS), who is relocated to Alabama by order of their  
80 employer.

81 c. An individual currently employed at the National  
82 Aeronautics and Space Administration who is relocated to  
83 Alabama by order of their employer.

84 d. An individual currently employed in Alabama as a



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85 civil servant for the United States Department of Defense.

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

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

92 (d) Any eligible individual under subsection (c) who  
93 possesses a valid license or certificate, in good standing, in  
94 another state, district, or territory of the United States, or  
95 in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the  
96 National Guard, that is substantially similar to the license  
97 issued by the appropriate board, agency, or commission in the  
98 State of Alabama shall be approved to continue work in his or  
99 her profession upon relocation to the State of Alabama for  
100 such time as normally allotted with receipt of a license or  
101 certificate from the appropriate occupational licensing board,  
102 ~~agency, or commission~~. Upon completion of an application, ~~an~~  
103 ~~authorized board, agency, or commission~~the occupational  
104 licensing board shall expedite the application according to  
105 statute, adopted rules, or if applicable, at the next  
106 scheduled licensure proceeding for an eligible individual  
107 under subsection (c).

108 (e) Any occupation licensing board,~~agency, or~~  
109 ~~commission in the State of Alabama~~ may establish reciprocity  
110 with other states for military spouse professional licensing  
111 and certification.

112 (f) Any occupational licensing board,~~agency,~~



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113 ~~commission, or other entity providing professional licenses or~~  
114 ~~certificates, or both, for the purpose of employment in this~~  
115 ~~state,~~ that is created after April 6, 2018, shall adopt the  
116 rules required by this section within one year after the date  
117 of its initial organizational meeting.

118 (g) Any occupational licensing board, ~~agency,~~  
119 ~~commission, or other entity providing professional licenses or~~  
120 ~~certificates, or both, for the purpose of employment in the~~  
121 ~~state,~~ shall waive the initial licensing fee for the eligible  
122 individual upon application by the eligible individual in a  
123 manner prescribed by the occupational licensing board, ~~agency,~~  
124 ~~commission, or other entity.~~ The occupational licensing board, ~~agency,~~  
125 ~~commission, or other entity~~ shall process an  
126 application for a fee waiver within 30 days after receiving  
127 the application.

128 (h) This section does not apply to the practice of law  
129 or the regulation of attorneys, any license or registration  
130 issued by the Securities Commission under the Alabama  
131 Securities Act, any certification issued by the Alabama Peace  
132 Officers' Standards and Training Commission, or the practice  
133 of any profession regulated by the Alabama State Board of  
134 Pharmacy, Board of Optometry, Board of Dental Examiners, State  
135 Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Alabama Liquefied Petroleum  
136 Gas Board, or State Board of Medical Examiners."

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