



REMOVING BARRIERS TO WORK FOR GEORGIA'S MILITARY SPOUSES

Rachel Wallen Oglesby | February 22, 2024

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING IS A BARRIER TO WORK FOR MILITARY SPOUSES



More Than

2,700

OCCUPATIONS

are now regulated by at least one state

1 in 4



AMERICAN WORKERS

now work in an occupation **that requires a license**—up from 1 in 20 in the 1950s

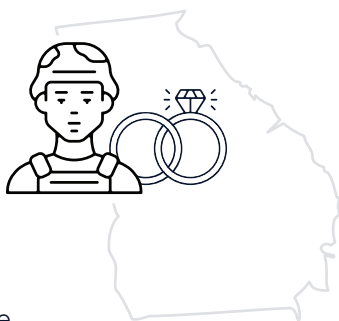
Every state requires people looking to work in certain fields to receive government approval to do so, in the form of an occupational license. Common examples of licensed professions include electricians, nurses, cosmetologists, teachers, accountants, and engineers, among many others. States differ on which occupations they license and what they require from workers to earn a license, but most require hundreds of hours of training, minimum education levels, exams, and fees. These hurdles are time-consuming and expensive, especially for military spouses who want to work in one of these professions amidst several moves from state to state.

★ **Georgia** is home to roughly **42,000 military spouses**

★ Military personnel and their families move every **2.5 years, on average**

★ Some **military spouses** have waited **10+ months** to get a licensing credential in a new state

★ **Military spouses** have a **22% unemployment rate** and a **26% wage gap** compared to their civilian counterparts



UNDER CURRENT LAW, GEORGIA LICENSING BOARDS CAN:

★ **Take up to 90 days to approve or deny** a military spouse's request to have their out-of-state license recognized

★ **Require a military spouse** to take another exam in order to work in Georgia, even if they are licensed in good standing in another state

★ **Determine that a military spouse's out-of-state license** is not good enough for Georgia and deny them the ability to work in the state

GEORGIA POLICYMAKERS MUST REMOVE LICENSING BARRIERS AND ALLOW MILITARY SPOUSES TO GET TO WORK IMMEDIATELY