

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

January 4, 2018

Sample Letter to Professional and Occupational Licensing Boards

Dear Executive Director,

My wife Donna and I personally came to understand the shared sacrifices that military families make in order to serve and protect our country. Many people fail to remember that the service members themselves are not the only ones making those sacrifices; the spouses and children of military families give up a great deal when their loved ones are called to a new station far away from the place they call home. Relocating somewhere entirely unfamiliar often means finding new jobs and new schools and months of adjustment to life in a new place.

In an effort to do all we can to welcome those families into ours, I am writing to remind all of our professional and occupational licensing boards of Louisiana law as it relates to easing the burden on military spouses seeking a professional license in our state once they arrive. Specifically, Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:3651(C) requires a professional or occupational licensing board to "issue a license, certification, or registration to a military spouse to allow the military spouse to lawfully practice" his or her occupation in Louisiana if the military spouse:

- (1) holds a current license, certification, or registration from another jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction's requirement for licensure, certification, or registration are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration in this state;
- (2) can demonstrate competency in the occupation through methods as determined by the board, such as having completed continuing education units or having had recent experience;
- (3) has not been disciplined in any jurisdiction for an act that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license to practice that occupation in this state at the time the act was committed; and

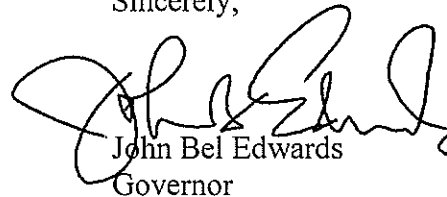
(4) is in good standing and has not been disciplined by the agency that issued the license, certification, or permit. *La. R.S. 37:3651(C)*.

Additionally, when a military spouse is licensed in another state and that state's licensure standards are "substantially equivalent" to Louisiana's standards, professional and occupational licensing boards are required to issue a temporary practice permit to the military spouse while he or she is satisfying the remaining requirements listed directly above. *See La. R.S. 37:3651(D)*. Once a temporary practice permit is received, the military spouse's application for full licensure must receive priority processing. The temporary practice permit remains in effect until a full license is granted or denied. *See La. R.S. 37:3651(E)*.

We see it as our duty now to support and assist those families when their service brings them to Louisiana because military families stationed here, no matter how long, are our neighbors. They are Louisianans.

I have enclosed a copy of the pertinent statute for your convenience. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ellen Palmintier, Director of Boards and Commissions, at (225) 342-0919.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards
Governor

Enclosure