



DEFENSE-STATE LIAISON OFFICE

Working with state policymakers to support military families



What We Do

- Established by the USD(P&R) in 2004
- Mission is to:
 - Alleviate barriers as a result of military life
 - Harmonize differences in state and federal laws
- Have covered a wide range of state issues:
 - Family law, education, occupational licensure and employment support, consumer protection, voting, health policy, National Guard support and the state judicial system
- Issues are reviewed annually to bring most significant to states
- Accomplish mission through research of potential issues and “ERA” with state policymakers



10 Key Issues for 2020

- ✓ Military Spouse Teachers Certification
- ✓ Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
- ✓ Medicaid Waivers
- ✓ In-State Tuition Continuity
- ✓ Licensure Law and Implementation
- Enhance Military Spouse Licensure Portability
- Occupational Licensing Compacts (Nursing, PT, EMS, Psych & Speech/Audiology in 2020)
- Advance Enrollment
- Connecting Veterans, Service members and Families to Services through State Agency Identification (pending for 2020)
- Virtual School Enrollment (pending for 2020)



✓ Complete in New Mexico

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Military Spouse Licensure Portability Approaches

- **State-specific improvements for the short-term:**
 - **Expedite state licensure processes for military spouses:** Most states have considered this approach through endorsement, temporary licensing and expedited application processes.
 - **Exempt military spouses from state licensing processes:** Some states such as AZ, FL, IA, TX and UT allow military spouses to work in the state, based upon having a current license in good standing from another state.
- **Interstate solution for the long-term:** Compacts establish common understanding of competency and its measurement within the occupation and then seek to have states approve the compact through legislation.



Recognized Compacts

- ✓ eNLC – Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (33 approved)
 - Privilege to practice provision
 - Flexibility through Military Spouse Residence Relief Act

- **PSYPACT – Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact (10 approved): NM 141 in 2019**
 - Supports tele-health – important for access to care
 - Assists military spouse psychologists maintain clients

- **PT COMPACT– Physical Therapy Licensure Compact: (25 approved)**
 - Privilege to practice provision allows military spouse to work in any member state with an unencumbered license in the home state

- **REPLICA – Emergency Medical Services Compact (18 approved)**
 - Establishes consistent licensing requirements
 - Special provisions for military

- **Speech Pathologists/Audiologists Compact: launching in 2020**



Advance Enrollment

ISSUE: Most military children cannot pre-enroll for school.

- Not eligible to register in courses or specialized academic programs prior to physical arrival within district boundaries.
 - Typically, course offerings are already full by the time the student arrives.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Temporarily waive proof of residency requirements to allow military families on orders to register their children in a school district prior to arriving.

- Intent is to possibly permit preliminary registration, enrollment, or application to a school district.
 - At the same time the process is open to the general student population (typically in the Spring).



Connecting Veterans, Service members and Families to Services through State Agency Identification

- **OPPORTUNITY:** Service providers can have a profound impact on veterans, Service members, and families by connecting them to services and care.
 - State veteran services organizations may provide exceptional support to the veteran who self-identifies/seeks those services.
 - However, other state helping agencies (including healthcare, social services, education and others) may be able to assist but might not be aware if a person is actually a veteran.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** Have state agencies ask the question: Have you or a family member ever served in the military?
 - When “YES”, provide applicable information and assistance.
 - New Hampshire – ‘Ask the Question’; Texas and Hawaii – ‘No Wrong Door’; ‘Delaware Joining Forces’; Rhode Island – ‘RIServes’



Virtual School Enrollment

- **OPPORTUNITY:** States can provide military students with technology-based educational opportunities (virtual schools) to gain knowledge and skills necessary to succeed when confronted with the challenges of transitioning between duty stations.
 - Eligible military children could participate without a residence requirement if moving to/from a school within impacted states.
 - The gaining school could accept credits taken through the virtual program.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** Could be applied to over two thirds of the states that have state-governed virtual school systems that can improve transition education assistance.
 - Does NOT currently apply to New Mexico.



Military State Policy Source Website

The Military State Policy Source website from DSLO complements the personal support provided by regional liaisons.

The website, available 24/7:

- Offers insight about how key issues impact military families
- Tracks the status of legislation on key issues across states
- Connects users to official data from the Department of Defense
- Is mobile friendly and updated frequently

MILITARY
STATE POLICY
SOURCE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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