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SENATE MEMORIAL 7

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR MILITARY SPOUSE PROFESSIONAL AND
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE RECIPROCITY AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR
THE INCLUSION OF MILITARY SPOUSE ATTORNEYS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a long and proud history of
military service by its residents that dates back hundreds of
years before statehood; and

WHEREAS, service members at home and abroad are committed
to New Mexico, the United States and the defense of freedom;
and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is committed to strengthening support
to military personnel, veterans and military families in New
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature and Governor Michelle
Lujan Grisham have previously recognized the challenges posed

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1 to military spouses who hold professional and occupational
2 licenses through the passage of House Bill 30 (2020) (expedited
3 licensure for military families) and House Bill 120 (2021)
4 (military spouse expedited licensure), which has since helped
5 New Mexican military families overcome licensing barriers; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature is requested to
7 reaffirm its support for military spouse professional and
8 occupational licensure reciprocity and to affirm support for
9 military spouse attorneys, as well; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature urges the supreme
11 court and the New Mexico board of bar examiners to adopt rules
12 that accommodate the unique needs of military spouse attorneys
13 who move frequently in support of national defense, including:

14 A. enacting "admission by endorsement" for military
15 spouse attorneys, whereby a military spouse attorney who holds
16 an active license to practice law in at least one state or
17 territory or the District of Columbia, in good standing in all
18 jurisdictions where admitted, and who possesses the requisite
19 character and fitness and meets the educational standards
20 required for admission would be admitted without examination to
21 the practice of law in New Mexico, if the applicant:

22 (1) demonstrates presence in New Mexico due to
23 a spouse's military service;

24 (2) establishes that the applicant is not
25 currently subject to a lawyer discipline or the subject of a

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1 pending disciplinary matter in any jurisdiction;

2 (3) pays any applicable annual client
3 protection fund assessment; and

4 (4) complies with all other ethical, legal and
5 continuing legal education obligations;

6 B. reviewing current bar application and admission
7 procedures to ensure that those procedures are not unduly
8 burdensome to military spouse attorneys and that those
9 applications are handled promptly; and

10 C. encouraging mentorship programs to connect
11 military spouse attorneys with local members of the bar; and

12 WHEREAS, the New Mexico senate urges the supreme court and
13 New Mexico board of bar examiners to consider adoption of the
14 military spouse J.D. network's proposed rule for military
15 spouse attorney limited licensure filed with the supreme court
16 originally on June 30, 2018, as amended, restated and refiled
17 on June 25, 2021;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that military spouse professional and
20 occupational licensure reciprocity, including military spouse
21 attorney licensure reciprocity, continue to be a priority on
22 behalf of all military families serving in New Mexico; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services, the chief
25 justice of the supreme court, the executive director of the New

.221900.1

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1 Mexico board of bar examiners and the commanders of Kirtland
2 air force base, Cannon air force base, Holloman air force base
3 and White Sands missile range.

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