



DEFENSE-STATE LIAISON OFFICE

New Mexico Military and Veterans Committee

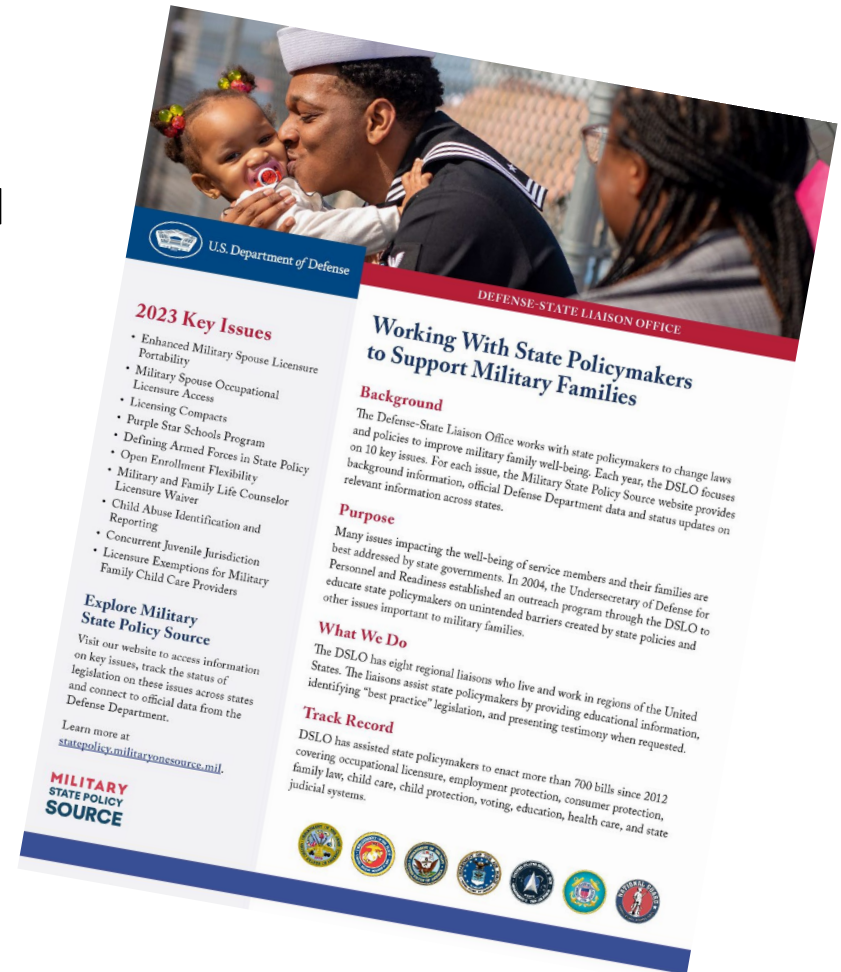
14 July 2022



U.S. Department of Defense

Mission

- The Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO) was established by the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness in 2004.
- DSLO is charged to address designated Personnel and Readiness Key Issues with state policymakers to change laws and policies to improve military family life.
- In the past decade, we have helped to enact over 800 bills covering a wide range of quality of life issues to include:
 - Family law, education, occupational licensure and employment support, consumer protection, voting, health policy, & National Guard support



Key State Policy Issues

- The Defense-State Liaison Office works with Defense Department leaders and other stakeholders to choose key issues to focus on each year, based on a comprehensive study of potential key issues.
- Considerations include:
 - Importance/relevance to DoD and the military departments
 - Feasibility of the majority of states to approve policy
 - Necessity to address through state policy
- See an overview of where your state stands on key issues for military families at statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil.



DoD Quality of Life Focus

Feb 2018: Military Department Secretaries letter to the National Governors Association

- Identified military spouses licensure and K – 12 education to be evaluated as part of basing decisions

Dec 2019: DOD report to Congress on licensure

- State best practices and strategies for achieving reciprocity

Feb 2020: OUSD (P&R) report to Governors

- Provided specific recommendations for licensure policy improvement to each governor

Dec 2020-2022: NDAA §2883

- Requires DoD and military services to produce annual basing decision scorecard considering military family readiness issues

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FEB 23 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION
SUBJECT: Consideration of Schools and Reciprocity of Professional Licensure for Military Families in Future Basing or Mission Alternatives

Thank you for your support of our men and women in the military. We are often asked what communities can do to support those who serve. While focus on the mission is always our priority, the factors military families cite most frequently as drawbacks to military service include military dependent's difficulty assimilating into local school systems following a duty station transfer, the quality of schools available for their children, and the ability of spouses to obtain jobs and sustain careers. With that in mind, we will encourage leadership to consider the quality of schools near bases and whether reciprocity of professional licensure is available for military families when evaluating future basing or mission alternatives.

Military families relocate frequently. The services endeavor to schedule transfers to minimize impact on the academic year, but this is not always possible. As a result, incoming students face difficulties transferring credits between school systems, adjusting to varied curriculum, and joining sports teams or clubs after the start of the school year. Exclusion from extra-curricular activities is particularly challenging for our military children, as they are critical to social development and self-esteem. Some school systems recognize this and accommodate military families during transfers. These schools should be commended and emulated.

Facilitating military spouses in continuing their work in a new place of residence without delays or extra expense is also important. Spouses in professionally licensed fields such as medical, legal, engineering, education, accounting, or the cosmetic arts face challenges due to delays or cost of transferring licenses to a new state or jurisdiction. Eliminating or mitigating these barriers will improve quality of life for our military families, and ease the stress of transferring duty stations with consideration for long-term career implications.

We realize improving schools and changing laws or regulations regarding professional licensure will take time. Over the long term, however, leaders who want to make a difference for the military and our missions will make the most impact if we focus on what matters. Reciprocity on licensure and the quality of education matter.





2023 Key Issues: Education

- ✓ **Purple Star Schools Program** (NM: **Approved 2021**)

By establishing statewide Purple Star Schools programs, states can encourage local education agencies to implement practices that assist military children with transitions/deployments and also recognize military service and civic responsibility.

- **Open Enrollment Flexibility** (NM: **Partially met**; legislation approved 2021)

States can provide military families with increased flexibility through access to district open enrollment policies.



2023 Key Issues: Health & Well-Being

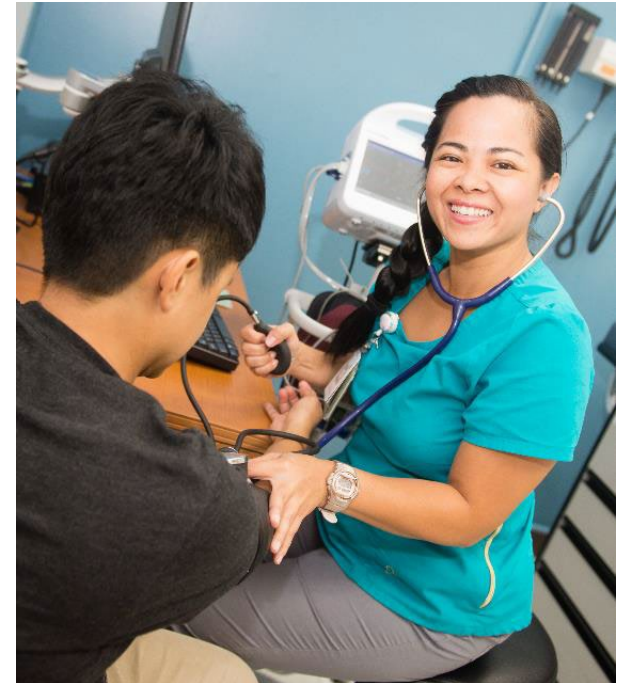
- ❑ **Licensure Exemptions for Military Family Child Care Providers** (NM: New issue to address) States can enhance the economic status of both military family child care providers and families by exempting providers already certified through the military from state licensure.
- ❑ **Defining Armed Forces in State Policy** (NM: New issue to address) States can minimize disruptions in benefits and services for eligible service members and dependents by clearly defining “armed forces.”
- **Concurrent Jurisdiction** (NM: Under review; need to validate that there is statutory authority for state to accept retrocession)
States’ juvenile courts can adjudicate juvenile offenses when concurrent jurisdiction is established between state and federal authorities over military installations.
- ✓ **Child Abuse Identification and Reporting** (NM: Policy implemented in 2019)
States can assist the Defense Department by requiring local jurisdictions to identify military families and develop reporting and information-sharing procedures between civilian child protective services and military child advocacy.





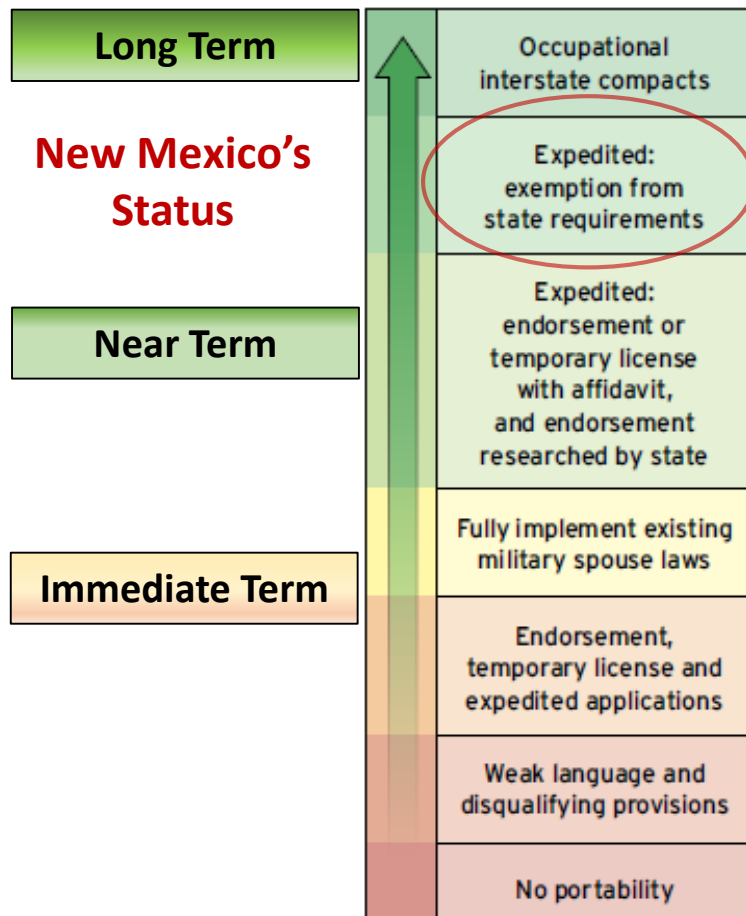
2023 Key Issues: Licensure Portability

- ❑ **Licensing Compacts (NM: Approved 1 of 8 existing compacts)**
States can facilitate the ability of professionals, including military spouses, to work across state lines by enacting occupational licensure interstate compacts.
- ❑ **Military and Family Life Counselor Licensure Waiver (NM: New issue to address)** States can provide a licensure waiver for military and family life counselors to allow for mental health care as needed.
- ✓ **Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure Portability (NM: Approved legislation in 2021 & 2022)**
States can streamline state licensing processes for relocating military spouses by providing them with a license within 30 days with minimal initial paperwork.
- ✓ **Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access (NM: Approved legislation in 2022)**
States can reduce the obstacles spouses experience when applying under state laws by posting easily accessible website content specific to military spouses.





Military Spouse Licensure Portability – DOD Criteria



- **A continuum of opportunities** to transfer an occupational license between states from short-term to long-term solutions
- **Three lines of effort**
Accessibility, Enhanced Policy, and Compacts





Interstate Occupational Licensure Compacts

The DOD “gold standard” for licensure reciprocity, allowing professionals to seamlessly practice across state lines.

Current compacts being considered by States:

- ☐ Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
- ☐ Physical Therapy Licensure Compact
- ☐ Emergency Medical Service Compact
- ☐ Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology – Interstate Compact
- ☐ Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact
- ☐ Licensed Professional Counselor Licensure Compact
- ☐ Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Compact
- ✓ Nurse Licensure Compact (NM Approved in 2018)



New Licensure Compacts in Development

FY 2020 NDAA (PL 116 – 92, Section 575) authorized DoD to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments (CSG)

- Provides grants to occupations to develop occupational licensure compacts and develop supporting database

Selected

| Profession | Lead Organizations |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Teaching | National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation |
| Licensed Clinical Social Workers | Clinical Social Work Association, Association of Social Work Boards and National Association of Social Workers |
| Cosmetology and Barbering | Coalition of 15 State Boards |
| Dental Hygiene | American Dental Hygiene Association and the American Dental Association for Dentists & Dental Hygienists |
| Massage Therapy | Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards |
| Genetic Counselors | National Society of Genetic Counselors |
| Acupuncture | American Society of Acupuncturists |
| Chiropractors | Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards |
| HVACR Technicians | North American Technician Excellence |



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