

**SUBJECT:** Clarifying certain license transfers for military members and spouses

**COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Flynn, Tinderholt, Lopez, Lozano, Ramos, Reynolds, Romero  
0 nays  
2 absent — Ashby, Hinojosa

**WITNESSES:** For — Keith Sledd, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, Governor's Committee to Support the Military; (*Registered, but did not testify:* R. Clint Smith, Abilene Chamber of Commerce; Jon Fisher, Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas; Jerry Bark, City of Harker Heights; Hilary Shine, City of Killeen; Annie Spilman, National Federation of Independent Business; Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; Cheri Siegelin, Texas Correctional Employees-Huntsville; Arthur Simon)  
Against — None  
On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Cruz Montemayor, Texas Veterans Commission)

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that it can be difficult for military veterans and military spouses to transfer their current professional licenses from other states to Texas due to confusing regulatory standards.

**DIGEST:** HB 4413 would specify procedures for the transfer of occupational licenses issued by other states and held by military members, veterans, and military spouses. The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) would be required to create an informational website and to study occupational licensing for these individuals.  
**SBEC rules.** The bill would require the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to propose rules to establish procedures to expedite

the processing of an application for an educator certificate submitted by an educator who was a military service member, veteran, or military spouse, including rules for providing a permanent change of station or military identification card. SBEC would have to post the procedures for obtaining a certificate and a notice of licensing requirements for military members, veterans, and spouses on its website.

**Examination requirements.** The commissioner of education could adopt rules establishing exceptions to the examination requirements to obtain an educator certificate to an educator who was a military service member, veteran, or military spouse.

**State agency rules.** The bill would require a state agency that issued licenses to ensure that a military service member, veteran, or military spouse received appropriate credit for the individual's experience, including clinical and professional experience, in a licensed profession.

A state agency that issued a license with a residency requirement for license eligibility would have to adopt rules to allow these applicants to establish residency by providing a copy of the member or spouse's permanent change of station order or military ID card.

A state agency that issued an alternative license to a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse also would have to notify the Texas Veterans Commission immediately on determining that the requirements of a license of this state were substantially equivalent to those of another jurisdiction.

**Texas Veterans Commission study.** HB 4413 would require TVC to conduct a study to:

- identify the occupational licenses for which a significant number of military service members, military veterans, or military spouses submitted applications to state licensing authorities;
- examine the occupational licensing requirements of each identified licensing authority;

- identify opportunities for licensing authorities to accept substantially equivalent occupational licensing requirements from authorities outside the state to enable a military service member, veteran, or spouse to obtain a Texas license; and
- identify opportunities for licensing authorities to issue temporary licenses to military service members, military veterans, and military spouses who applied for Texas licensure and were licensed by another jurisdiction with substantially equivalent licensing requirements.

TVC would have to submit a report on the results of the study, including any recommendations for legislative or other actions the commission deemed necessary, to the governor, lieutenant governor, and the Legislature by December 1, 2020.

The provisions of the bill relating to the TVC study would expire September 1, 2021.

**TVC website.** TVC would have to establish and maintain a website to serve as a single location for military service members, veterans, and military spouses to access information regarding the issuance of a license by a state agency to these individuals who were also licensed in another jurisdiction. The website would have to include a list of each Texas license and licenses of other jurisdictions that were determined to be substantially similar.

TVC would have to establish this website by January 1, 2020.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to an initial application for or an application for renewal of an occupational license filed on or after the effective date.