

Absent such a requirement, boards may not track how many of their applicants seek licensure pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-15.1. For example, the State Board of Education reported issuing licenses to military-trained applicants and military spouses but did not know precisely how many applicants used the statute because the Board was not collecting this data. Data collection and measurement are sound management practices. By tracking the number of applicants seeking licensure pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-15.1, the boards and the General Assembly can determine the extent to which the statute is being utilized. Further, the General Assembly can judge the effectiveness of the statute by examining the reasons for denials.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1. The General Assembly should require occupational licensing boards to offer an expedited application process for licensing military spouses.

As discussed in Finding 1, North Carolina has implemented both licensure by endorsement and temporary or provisional licensure, two of the three best practices recommended by the Department of Defense for facilitating licensure portability for military spouses. However, North Carolina has not implemented the third best practice, an expedited application process for spouses.

The General Assembly should direct occupational licensing boards to implement an expedited application process to license military spouses by December 1, 2020.

Recommendation 2. The General Assembly should require occupational licensing boards to publicize and promote N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-15.1 in order to increase awareness of its provisions by military-trained applicants and military spouses.

As demonstrated in Finding 2, there is no requirement for occupational licensing boards to make veterans and military spouses aware of opportunities provided by the military licensure provisions. In interviews with the Program Evaluation Division, several military advocacy groups reported not being aware of the provisions. The Program Evaluation Division found links or references to the statute on 29 board websites out of the 54 occupational licensing boards examined in this study.

The General Assembly should direct occupational licensing boards to promote awareness of military licensure provisions to military-trained applicants and military spouses by December 1, 2020.

At a minimum, each applicable occupational licensing board should be required to publish N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-15.1 provisions on its website in an easily accessible location.

Recommendation 3. The General Assembly should require occupational licensing boards to annually report (i) the number of military-trained applicants and military spouses who were licensed pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-15.1 and (ii) the number who were denied licensure.

As shown in Finding 3, stakeholders in the military community feel the military licensure provisions are important and should be tracked. Each group interviewed by the Program Evaluation Division indicated it was in favor of establishing a reporting requirement to track the number of military-trained applicants as well as military spouse applicants.

The General Assembly should direct occupational licensing boards to collect data necessary to report the required information. These reporting requirements should be added to already existing reporting requirements specified in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-2. The data should include a summary of the reasons military-trained applicants and military spouses were denied licensure but should not disclose any identifying information about any applicant.

The first report with Fiscal Year 2019–20 data should be submitted to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee by October 31, 2021.

Appendices

Appendix A. Program Evaluation Division Survey Results

Appendix B. Number of Military-Trained Applicants Who Sought to Use N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-15.1 in Applying for Licensure Since July 2013

Appendix C. Number of Military Spouse Applicants Who Sought to Use N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-15.1 in Applying for Licensure Since July 2013

Agency Response

A draft of this report was submitted to the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to review. Its response is provided following the appendices.

Program Evaluation Division Contact and Acknowledgments

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