



# HOUSE BILL 902: Military-Trained/Spouse Licensure Practices.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 1, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Grange, Bell	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Bill Godwin
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Jennifer Bedford Staff Attorneys

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 902 would require the Program Evaluation Division (PED) to study the extent to which the provisions of G.S. 93B-15.1 has improved the ability of military-trained applicants and military spouses to become licensed by occupational licensing boards in the State.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Program Evaluation Division of the Legislative Services Commission is a staff agency of the General Assembly. Its purpose is to assist the General Assembly in fulfilling its responsibility to oversee government functions by providing an independent, objective source of information to be used in evaluating whether programs or activities of a State agency, or programs or activities of a non-State entity conducted or provided using State funds, are operated and delivered in the most effective and efficient manner and in accordance with law. G.S. 93B-15.1 requires occupational licensing boards to issue occupational licenses to military trained applicants and military spouse applicants upon proof to an occupational licensing board that they possess certain qualifications and experiences sufficient to allow them to practice their occupation in this State.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 902 would require PED to study the extent to which G.S. 93B-15.1 has improved the ability of military trained applicants and military spouses to become licensed by occupational licensing boards in the State and would require all occupational licensing boards, as defined in G.S. 93B-1, to cooperate in conducting this study. The bill would direct PED to consider the following:

- Whether G.S. 93B-15.1 should be expanded to allow licensure of more military trained applicants and military spouses.
- The effectiveness of publishing information on the criteria for licensure of military spouses and whether additional platforms are available to publish this information.
- The feasibility and effectiveness of including a question about military status and status as a military spouse, on applications for licensure.
- Determining what steps can be taken to provide or enhance continuing education programs to assist military spouses in maintaining an active occupational license, even if issued by another state.
- Providing training for at least one employee in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on the licensure process outlined in G.S. 93B-15 and to consider ways to disseminate information about this employee's availability to applicants.
- Whether to develop a process for annually gathering occupational licensing board data on the number of military trained applicants and military spouses who (i) were licensed pursuant to G.S. 93B-15.1 or under the existing licensure, certification, or registration requirements established by occupational licensing boards and (ii) were denied licensure.

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House Bill 902 would require PED to submit the findings of its study and any recommendations for proposed legislation, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government and to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs by February 1, 2020.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would be effective when the act becomes law.