

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0085.02 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 16-1197

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT STATE AGENCIES IMPLEMENT A**
102 **PROGRAM TO STREAMLINE THE GRANTING OF OCCUPATIONAL**
103 **CREDENTIALS TO VETERANS BASED ON MILITARY TRAINING.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill requires each state agency that regulates a profession or occupation to evaluate and provide appropriate credit toward licensing and certification for military experience. Specifically, each agency must:

- ! Evaluate the extent to which military training meets state requirements;

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

- ! Identify reciprocity mechanisms with other states;
- ! Determine if an occupational exam is available to authorize a veteran to practice an occupation;
- ! Document the results and publish a summary of pathways available to a veteran to obtain authorization to practice an occupation;
- ! Identify, where appropriate, those professions or occupations whose licencing and credentials are based on passing an exam;
- ! Consult with community colleges and other post-secondary educational institutions with regard to bridge programs to cover educational gaps and refresher courses for lapsed credentials; and
- ! Consider adopting a national credentialing exam.

Each state agency may consult with any military official, state agency, or post-secondary educational institution, and each post-secondary educational institution is obligated to cooperate.

Goals for compliance are set in a legislative declaration. Each state agency will report progress each year, until 2023.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The Colorado General
3 Assembly finds and declares that:

4 (a) Colorado would benefit from having military veterans bring
5 their expertise to the state, enriching the economy and civil society.

6 (b) Many veterans have extensive military training and job
7 experience in occupations that would benefit Colorado. Many of these
8 occupations are licensed or certified.

9 (2) The public policy of Colorado is to:

10 (a) Recognize the value and expertise military training and
11 experience imparts to veterans;

12 (b) Give veterans credit for this training towards state licensing
13 and certification standards;

14 (c) Streamline and expedite the occupational licensing and

1 certification process for veterans by a comprehensive and systematic
2 evaluation of military training and job experience from military
3 occupations that are substantially equivalent to civilian occupations; and

4 (d) Help veterans enter the workforce quickly and at the lowest
5 possible cost to expand the pool of skilled personnel to fill available
6 positions as needed.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 2 to article
8 4 of title 24 as follows:

9 **PART 2**

10 **MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL STREAMLINING**

11 **24-4-201. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE
12 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

13 (1) "AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE" OR "AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE"
14 MEANS THE HOLDING OF A CURRENTLY VALID LICENSE TO PRACTICE IN AN
15 OCCUPATION OR A CURRENTLY VALID CERTIFICATION OR REGISTRATION
16 NECESSARY TO PRACTICE IN AN OCCUPATION IF THE PERSON IS LICENSED,
17 CERTIFIED, OR REGISTERED.

18 (2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND
19 VETERANS AFFAIRS.

20 (3) "MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY" MEANS THE CATEGORY
21 OR CATEGORIES OF SPECIAL DUTIES A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES
22 ARMED FORCES IS TRAINED TO PERFORM.

23 (4) "OCCUPATION" MEANS AN OCCUPATION OR PROFESSION THAT
24 IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR REGISTERED UNDER STATE STATUTE.

25 (5) "STATE AGENCY" MEANS ANY DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, BOARD,
26 OR OTHER AGENCY OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THAT CERTIFIES,
27 LICENSES, OR REGISTERS AN OCCUPATION.

1 **24-4-202. Legislative declaration - reports - repeal.** (1) THE
2 GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTENDS THAT:

3 (a) EACH STATE AGENCY THAT AUTHORIZES MORE THAN TEN
4 OCCUPATIONS TO PRACTICE OR OVERSEES OTHER AGENCIES THAT
5 AUTHORIZE MORE THAN TEN OCCUPATIONS TO PRACTICE SHOULD HAVE
6 IMPLEMENTED THIS PART 2 FOR:

7 (I) AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE OCCUPATIONS BY
8 DECEMBER 30, 2018;

9 (II) AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT OF THE OCCUPATIONS BY DECEMBER
10 30, 2020; AND

11 (III) ALL OF THE OCCUPATIONS BY DECEMBER 30, 2022;

12 (b) EACH STATE AGENCY THAT AUTHORIZES TEN OR FEWER
13 OCCUPATIONS TO PRACTICE OR OVERSEES OTHER AGENCIES THAT
14 AUTHORIZE TEN OR FEWER OCCUPATIONS TO PRACTICE SHOULD HAVE
15 IMPLEMENTED THIS PART 2 FOR:

16 (I) AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT OF THE OCCUPATIONS BY DECEMBER
17 30, 2018; AND

18 (II) ALL OF THE OCCUPATIONS BY DECEMBER 30, 2020.

19 (2) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11), EACH STATE
20 AGENCY THAT AUTHORIZES AN OCCUPATION TO PRACTICE SHALL PROVIDE
21 BY JUNE 30, 2017, AND BY JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER UNTIL
22 JUNE 30, 2023, A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING
23 THIS PART 2 TO EACH MEMBER OF: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; THE BUSINESS
24 AFFAIRS AND LABOR COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; THE
25 BUSINESS, LABOR, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE; THE
26 STATE, VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
27 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

1 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.

2 **24-4-203. Evaluation and implementation.** (1) EACH AGENCY
3 SHALL:

4 (a) DOCUMENT THE FOLLOWING RESULTS AND PUBLISH A
5 SUMMARY OF PATHWAYS AVAILABLE TO A VETERAN TO OBTAIN
6 AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE AN OCCUPATION:

7 (I) EVALUATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH MILITARY TRAINING MEETS
8 ALL OR PART OF THE STATE REQUIREMENTS TO BE AUTHORIZED TO
9 PRACTICE AN OCCUPATION;

10 (II) IDENTIFY RECIPROCITY MECHANISMS WITH OTHER STATES; AND

11 (III) DETERMINE IF AN OCCUPATIONAL EXAM IS AVAILABLE TO
12 AUTHORIZE A VETERAN TO PRACTICE AN OCCUPATION;

13 (b) CONSULT WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OTHER
14 POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH REGARD TO:

15 (I) COURSES OR PROGRAMS TO COVER THE GAP BETWEEN MILITARY
16 OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TRAINING AND THE TRAINING REQUIRED TO BE
17 AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE AN OCCUPATION; AND

18 (II) REFRESHER COURSES FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF LAPSED
19 CIVILIAN CREDENTIALS; AND

20 (c) CONSIDER ADOPTING A NATIONAL CREDENTIALING EXAM.

21 **24-4-204. Consultation - cooperation.** (1) EACH STATE AGENCY
22 MAY CONSULT WITH ANY FEDERAL OR STATE MILITARY OFFICIAL OR
23 AGENCY, STATE AGENCY, OR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL
24 INSTITUTION TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO IMPLEMENT THIS PART 2.

25 (2) EACH DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE AND EACH POST-SECONDARY
26 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION SHALL COOPERATE WITH A STATE AGENCY
27 SEEKING CONSULTATION UNDER THIS PART 2.

1 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
4 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.