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SYNOPSIS:

The Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act extends professional license reciprocity to eligible individuals, defined as spouses of specified members of the United States Armed Forces and specified federal employees.

This bill would extend professional license reciprocity to spouses of United States Department of Defense civil servants.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act; to amend Section 31-1-6, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Act 2022-92, 2022 Regular Session, to extend professional license reciprocity to spouses of United States Department of Defense civil servants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 31-1-6, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Section 1 of Act 2022-92 of the 2022 Regular Session, is amended to read as follows:

"§31-1-6



29 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the  
30 Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act.

31 (b) Except as provided in subsection (h), and  
32 notwithstanding other provisions of law, this section shall  
33 apply to any board, agency, commission, or other entity  
34 providing professional licenses or certificates, or both, for  
35 the purpose of employment in the State of Alabama. On or  
36 before January 1, 2023, each board, agency, or commission  
37 providing professional licenses or certificates, or both,  
38 shall adopt rules in conformity with this section for the  
39 purpose of implementing its requirements. The rules shall  
40 provide a method of accomplishing both of the following:

41 (1) The issuance of a license or certificate to an  
42 eligible individual, within 30 days of application, if the  
43 certification or license of the original issuing state or  
44 governing body is similar to that requested from this state,  
45 as provided in subsection (d).

46 (2) A procedure for authorizing an eligible individual  
47 to perform professional services regulated by the board,  
48 agency, or commission in this state pursuant to a temporary  
49 permit, effective for at least 360 days, while the board,  
50 agency, or commission deliberates the application to obtain a  
51 license or certificate in this state, as provided in  
52 subsection (d).

53 (c) For the purposes of this section, an "eligible  
54 individual" is any individual who satisfies all of the  
55 following:

56 (1) Is the spouse of any of the following:



57           a. An active duty, reserve, or transitioning member of  
58 the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard,  
59 or a surviving spouse of a service member who, at the time of  
60 his or her death, was serving on active duty, who is relocated  
61 to and stationed in the State of Alabama under official  
62 military orders. For the purposes of this ~~section~~ paragraph, a  
63 "transitioning ~~service~~ member" is ~~a member of the United~~  
64 ~~States Armed Forces, including the National Guard,~~ on active  
65 duty status or on separation leave who is within 24 months of  
66 retirement.

67           b. An individual currently employed by the United  
68 States Department of Justice or any of its encompassed  
69 offices, agencies, institutes, and bureaus, including, but not  
70 limited to, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the  
71 U.S. Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
72 Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Drug Enforcement  
73 Administration (DEA), and the United States Marshal Service  
74 (USMS), who is relocated to Alabama by order of their  
75 employer.

76           c. An individual currently employed at the National  
77 Aeronautics and Space Administration who is relocated to  
78 Alabama by order of their employer.

79           d. An individual currently employed in Alabama as a  
80 civil servant for the United States Department of Defense.

81           (2) Has not committed or participated in an act that  
82 would constitute grounds for refusal, suspension, or  
83 revocation of a professional license or certificate.

84           (3) Has not been disciplined by an authorized entity or



85 under investigation, in any jurisdiction, in relation to a  
86 professional license or certificate.

87 (d) Any eligible individual under subsection (c) who  
88 possesses a valid license or certificate, in good standing, in  
89 another state, district, or territory of the United States, or  
90 in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the  
91 National Guard, that is substantially similar to the license  
92 issued by the appropriate board, agency, or commission in the  
93 State of Alabama shall be approved to continue work in his or  
94 her profession upon relocation to the State of Alabama for  
95 such time as normally allotted with receipt of a license or  
96 certificate from the appropriate board, agency, or commission.  
97 Upon completion of an application, an authorized board,  
98 agency, or commission shall expedite the application according  
99 to statute, adopted rules, or if applicable, at the next  
100 scheduled licensure proceeding for an eligible individual  
101 under subsection (c).

102 (e) Any board, agency, or commission in the State of  
103 Alabama may establish reciprocity with other states for  
104 military spouse professional licensing and certification.

105 (f) Any board, agency, commission, or other entity  
106 providing professional licenses or certificates, or both, for  
107 the purpose of employment in this state, that is created after  
108 April 6, 2018, shall adopt the rules required by this section  
109 within one year after the date of its initial organizational  
110 meeting.

111 (g) Any board, agency, commission, or other entity  
112 providing professional licenses or certificates, or both, for



113 the purpose of employment in the state, shall waive the  
114 initial licensing fee for the eligible individual upon  
115 application by the eligible individual in a manner prescribed  
116 by the board, agency, commission, or other entity. The board,  
117 agency, commission, or other entity shall process an  
118 application for a fee waiver within 30 days after receiving  
119 the application.

120 (h) This section does not apply to the practice of law  
121 or the regulation of attorneys, any license or registration  
122 issued by the Securities Commission under the Alabama  
123 Securities Act, any certification issued by the Alabama Peace  
124 Officers' Standards and Training Commission, or the practice  
125 of any profession regulated by the Alabama State Board of  
126 Pharmacy, Board of Optometry, Board of Dental Examiners, State  
127 Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Alabama Liquefied Petroleum  
128 Gas Board, or State Board of Medical Examiners."

129 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first  
130 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
131 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.