

House Bill 1144

By: Representatives Martin of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Gullett of the 19<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Momtahan of the 17<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 general provisions of professions and businesses, so as to change certain requirements for the  
3 issuance of licenses by endorsement for spouses of active or transitioning members of the  
4 armed forces to conform to federal law; to conform certain requirements for license by  
5 endorsement for certain professions to those of spouses of active or transitioning members  
6 of the armed forces; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
11 provisions of professions and businesses, is amended by revising Code Section 43-1-35,  
12 relating to expedited license by endorsement for spouses of active or transitioning members  
13 of the armed forces and license by endorsement for certain professions, as follows:

14 "43-1-35.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

16 (1) 'Firefighter' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 45-9-81.

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17 (2) 'Healthcare provider' means any physician or other person licensed or otherwise  
18 authorized in this state to furnish healthcare services, including any dentist, podiatrist,  
19 optometrist, pharmacist, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, clinical social  
20 worker, registered professional nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed  
21 practical nurse, registered optician, physical therapist, chiropractor, physician assistant,  
22 cardiac technician, emergency medical technician, or paramedic.

23 (3) 'Law enforcement officer' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section  
24 45-9-81.

25 (4) 'License' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

26 (5) 'Other board' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

27 (6) 'Service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

28 (7) 'State' means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the  
29 United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
30 jurisdiction of the United States.

31 (8) 'Transitioning service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code  
32 Section 43-1-34.

33 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other  
34 board shall issue an expedited license by endorsement to any individual who is a spouse  
35 of a service member or transitioning service member stationed within the State of Georgia  
36 who:

37 (1) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another  
38 state for which the ~~training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in~~  
39 ~~qualifications and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license~~ scope of  
40 practice is similar to the scope of practice for such license in this state;

41 (2) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or a  
42 disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other board  
43 in such other state; and

44 (3) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the  
45 laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession,  
46 business, or trade for which such expedited license by endorsement is being sought.

47 (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other  
48 board shall issue a license by endorsement to any individual seeking licensure for a  
49 profession other than that of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or a law enforcement officer,  
50 provided that such individual ~~has~~:

51 (1) ~~Has moved~~ Moved from another state and established residency in this state;

52 (2) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another  
53 state prior to establishing residency in this state for which the ~~training, experience, and~~  
54 ~~testing are substantially similar in qualifications and scope to the requirements under this~~  
55 ~~state to obtain a license~~ scope of practice is similar to the scope of practice for such  
56 license in this state;

57 (3) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or a  
58 disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other board  
59 in such other state; and

60 (4) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the  
61 laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession,  
62 business, or trade for which such license by endorsement is being sought.

63 (d) Subsection (c) of this Code section shall not be used to grant a license by endorsement  
64 of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer to any individual.

65 (e) An expedited license by endorsement provided for in subsection (b) of this Code  
66 section shall be issued no later than 90 days from the date of receipt of an application and  
67 information and documents that show that all of the requirements of subsection (b) of this  
68 Code section have been met. An application for an expedited license by endorsement or  
69 a license by endorsement shall only require such information and documentation necessary

70 to verify that the applicant meets the requirements set forth in subsection (b) or (c),  
71 respectively, of this Code section.

72 (f) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to be applicable to a license  
73 or admission to practice law in this state.

74 (g) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to invalidate, override, or  
75 amend any licensing compact entered into by the State of Georgia or to permit the issuance  
76 of a license without verification under Code Section 50-36-1."

77 **SECTION 2.**

78 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.