

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities offered the following substitute to SB 352:

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 provide for the issuance of
3 expedited licenses by endorsement for certain licenses to spouses of firefighters, healthcare
4 providers, and law enforcement officers who relocate to the State of Georgia; to establish
5 qualifications for such expedited license by endorsement; to provide for definitions; to
6 provide for exceptions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
7 other 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 43-1-34.1,
12 relating to expedited license by endorsement for military spouses, as follows:

13 "43-1-34.1.

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

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

16 (2) 'Healthcare provider' means any physician or other person licensed or otherwise
 17 authorized in this state to furnish healthcare services, including, but not limited to, any
 18 dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, pharmacist, psychologist, clinical social worker, registered
 19 professional nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, registered
 20 optician, licensed professional counselor, physical therapist, massage therapist, marriage
 21 and family therapist, chiropractor, athletic trainer qualified pursuant to Code Section
 22 43-5-7, occupational therapist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, dietitian,
 23 physician assistant, cardiac technician, emergency medical technician, or paramedic.

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

26 ~~(1)(4)~~ 'License' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

27 ~~(2)~~ 'Military' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

28 ~~(3)(5)~~ 'Other board' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

29 ~~(4)(6)~~ 'Service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code
 30 Section 43-1-34.

31 ~~(5)(7)~~ 'State' means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
 32 the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the
 33 jurisdiction of the United States.

34 ~~(6)(8)~~ 'Transitioning service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code
 35 Section 43-1-34.

36 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other
 37 board shall issue an expedited license by endorsement to any individual ~~that~~ who:

38 (1) Is a spouse of a service member or transitioning service member stationed within ~~this~~
 39 ~~state;~~ the State of Georgia who:

40 ~~(2)(A)~~ Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by
 41 another state for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in
 42 qualifications and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license;

43 ~~(3)~~(B) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation
44 or a disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other
45 board in such other state; and

46 ~~(4)~~(C) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge
47 of the laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the
48 profession, business, or trade for which such expedited license by endorsement is being
49 sought; or

50 (2) Is a spouse of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer who was
51 employed as a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer in another state
52 prior to relocating to this state and obtaining employment as a firefighter, healthcare
53 provider, or law enforcement officer in the State of Georgia who:

54 (A) Moved from another state and established residency in this state;

55 (B) Holds a current license to practice an occupation or profession other than that of
56 a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer;

57 (C) Was issued such license by another state prior to establishing residency in this state
58 for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in qualifications
59 and scope to the requirements to obtain a license in this state;

60 (D) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation
61 being conducted by a professional licensing board or other board in such other state;
62 and

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

66 (c) Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall not be used to grant an
67 expedited license by endorsement of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement
68 officer to any individual.

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

72 **SECTION 2.**

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