

Senate Bill 352

By: Senators Thompson of the 14th, Albers of the 56th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Dugan of the 30th, McNeill of the 3rd and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

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 any dentist, podiatrist,  
 18 optometrist, pharmacist, psychologist, clinical social worker, registered professional  
 19 nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, registered optician,  
 20 physical therapist, chiropractor, physician assistant, cardiac technician, emergency  
 21 medical technician, or paramedic.

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

24 ~~(1)~~(4) 'License' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

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

26 ~~(3)~~(5) 'Other board' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

27 ~~(4)~~(6) 'Service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code  
 28 Section 43-1-34.

29 ~~(5)~~(7) 'State' means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,  
 30 the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
 31 jurisdiction of the United States.

32 ~~(6)~~(8) 'Transitioning service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code  
 33 Section 43-1-34.

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

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

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

- 41 ~~(3)~~(B) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation  
42 or a disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other  
43 board in such other state; and
- 44 ~~(4)~~(C) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge  
45 of the laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the  
46 profession, business, or trade for which such expedited license by endorsement is being  
47 sought; or
- 48 (2) Is a spouse of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer who was  
49 employed as a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer in another state  
50 prior to relocating to this state and obtaining employment as a firefighter, healthcare  
51 provider, or law enforcement officer in the State of Georgia who:
- 52 (A) Moved from another state and established residency in this state;
- 53 (B) Holds a current license to practice an occupation or profession other than that of  
54 a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer;
- 55 (C) Was issued such license by another state prior to establishing residency in this state  
56 for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in qualifications  
57 and scope to the requirements to obtain a license in this state;
- 58 (D) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or  
59 a disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other  
60 board in such other state; and
- 61 (E) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the  
62 laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession,  
63 business, or trade for which such expedited license by endorsement is being sought.
- 64 (c) Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall not be used to grant an  
65 expedited license by endorsement of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement  
66 officer to any individual.

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

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**SECTION 2.**

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