

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



Defense – State Liaison

Office, Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)

Thomas Hinton

Associate Director, Defense – State Liaison Office



DoD – State Liaison Function

- Established by the USD(P&R) in 2004
- Mission: **Serve as Resource to State Policymakers** to...
 - Alleviate barriers as a result of military life
 - Harmonize differences in state and federal laws
- Have covered a **wide range of state issues**:
 - Family law, education, occupational licensure and employment support, consumer protection, voting, health policy, National Guard support and the state judicial system
- Issues are **reviewed annually** to bring most significant to states
- Accomplish mission through research of potential issues and **“ERA”** with state policymakers
 - Educate about the issues, build Relationships, and Assist when asked
 - We don’t “lobby” – no ‘grass roots’ campaigning for specific bills



Regional Staff



Vacant



Vacant



Martin Dempsey



James Rickel



Harold Cooney



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Dale Vande Hey



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Kevin Bruch

“Completed” Issues



Issue	Status
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children	50 states and the District
Absentee voting	50 states (various aspects)
Child custody	50 states (various aspects)
Licensure for separating Service members	50 states (various aspects)
License portability for military spouses	50 states (various aspects)
Unemployment compensation for military spouses	46 states
Disposition of Service members' remains	45 states
Veterans Treatment Courts	44 states
In-state tuition for military families	36 states prior to 2009 fed law
In-state tuition for separating Service members	33 states prior to 2014 fed law



2018 Issues and Status

Issue	With Policy	Active Sponsors		Active Bills		Passed Both	Gov Signed
		Total	States	Total	States		
Implementation of supportive licensure laws	13	6	6	6	6	0	13
License Compacts	36	7	4	6	4	0	19
Military spouse teacher certification	31	3	2	2	2	0	11
Academic credit for military education	36	4	3	4	3	0	0
Retain earned priority for Medicaid waivers	34	1	1	1	1	0	2
Private sector hiring preference to veterans	37	2	2	2	2	1	0
National Guard employment protections	41	2	2	2	2	1	6
Enhance state Service members Civilian Relief Act	13	3	2	3	1	1	5
Pro-bono legal representation for military families	11	1	1	1	1	1	4
ID and reporting of child abuse and neglect	19	2	1	2	1	0	2
Other*		2	2	2	2	0	4
TOTALS		33		31	25	4	66
Aggregate States			11		11	2	33

2019 Issues



State policy to support identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect

Allow Service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers

Facilitate military spouse teacher certification

Residency Anticipation Enrollment



In-State Tuition Continuity



National Guard employment protections during state-sponsored activation

Licensing Compacts recognizing separating Service members and military spouses

Pro-bono legal representation for military families

Implementation of supportive licensure laws

Increase protection under State Supplemental Service members Civil Relief Act provisions

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“Service to our country, as a Service member or a family member, requires many necessary personal sacrifices. But, some challenges and sacrifices are *unnecessary*, and can be alleviated by state policy.”

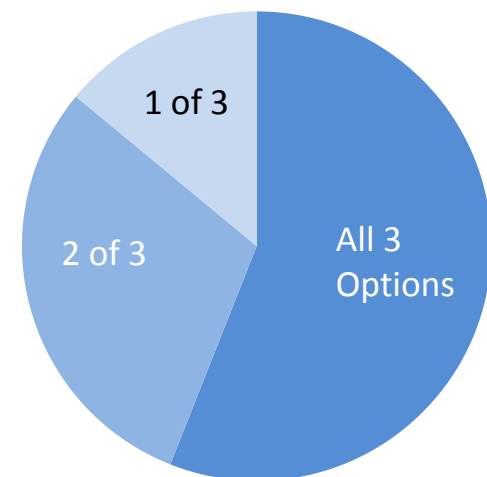
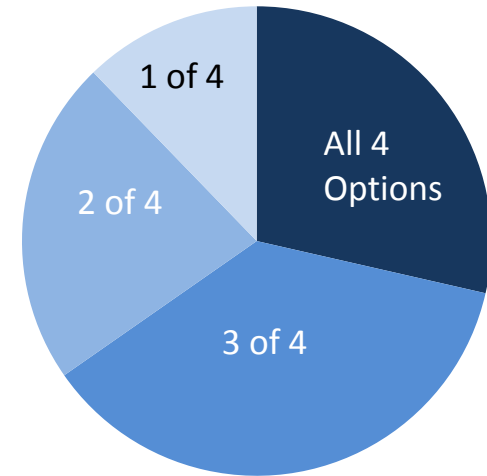
Thank you for all you do to support our brave warriors and their families.





Licensure Initiatives Status

- Encouraged states to accept four options for transitioning Service members:
 - 47 accept military training, education and experience towards licensure
 - 40 allow Reserve Component members to maintain licenses while on active duty
 - 34 accept military training, education and experience towards academic degree
 - 21 endorse license received on active duty
- Encouraged states to accept three options for military spouse license portability:
 - 46 provide temporary licensing for spouses who cannot qualify for endorsement
 - 39 make endorsement of existing licenses available and attainable
 - 37 expedite the process of getting a license





Recognized Compacts

- Physical Therapy License Compact:
 - Approved in 21 states; active legislation in 1
 - Privilege to practice provision allows military spouse to work in any member state with an unencumbered license in the home state
- Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact:
 - Approved in 32 states; active legislation in 6
 - Privilege to practice provision
 - Flexibility through Military Spouse Residence Relief Act
- REPLICA – Emergency Medical Services Compact
 - Approved in 14 states; active legislation in 5
 - Establishes consistent licensing requirements
 - Special provisions for military
- PSYPACT – Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact
 - Approved in 5 states; active legislation in 2
 - Supports tele-practice – important for access to care
 - Assists military spouse psychologists maintain clients



2018 Spouse Licensure Initiatives

- Follow-up on University of Minnesota Study
 - Request follow-up by legislatures/Governors/regulators on actions taken by boards
 - Requesting coverage of both spouse and transitioning Service member provisions
- Military spouse teacher certification
 - Largely not impacted by previous license portability initiative
 - State status: 31 states existing/enacted policy
- License Compacts recognizing military spouses
 - Interstate solution to an interstate problem
 - Redefines the core issues driving licensing burdens for military spouses: state specific competency standards and competency evaluations
 - Compact is written into state law, creating a consistent approach across states