

***AB 1057 (Medina) – Healing Arts: Licensure and Certification Requirements: Military Experience***

***Introduced February 22, 2013, Amended April 9, 2013***

This bill requires, after January 1, 2015, every licensing board under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to inquire in every license application if the applicant is serving in, or has previously served in, the military, in order to better identify and assist active military members and veterans applying for professional licensure.

The author intends for this bill to help military personnel make a successful transition from military to civilian life by creating an efficient process for licensing veterans in professional careers who have acquired new work skills while in the military.

Toward that end, the bill requires every licensing board under DCA to affirmatively inquire in every license application if the applicant is serving in, or has previously served in, the military, in order to better identify and assist active military members and veterans applying for professional licensure.

The author notes that most of DCA's licensing programs already have some process for accepting military service credit towards licensure for one or all of its license types. However, there is nothing on the application for licensure that identifies military experience. This bill will allow DCA to identify veterans in the application process and to ensure that they are counting military credit toward licensure.

DCA currently oversees 36 licensing programs that issue more than two million licenses, registrations, and certifications in approximately 200 professional categories. Existing law requires licensing boards under DCA to promulgate regulations to evaluate military education, training and experience and specify how applicants may meet licensure requirements if their military education and experience is comparable to the boards' license qualification standards.

Despite existing provisions under the BPC that facilitate the licensure of veterans and active military members, the majority of license applications do not ask applicants if they serve or have previously served in the military. This means that some applicants must proactively inform the appropriate licensing board if he or she is an active military member who may be exempt from license renewal fees or CE requirements, or a veteran eligible to apply military credit towards initial licensure, as provided for under existing law. In addition, DCA's licensing programs do not currently track licensure approvals or denials of applicants with military service. Given the recent amount of attention devoted to assisting military families and veterans with obtaining professional licensure, it may be helpful for DCA to gather accurate data on how many applicants serve, or have served in the military in order to better assist those applicants.

This bill would not impact veterans who have already obtained initial licensure. The information collected by this bill will assist licensing boards in identifying applicants who may be eligible for streamlined licensure and permit DCA to compile data on the number of military applicants it serves.

### **Existing Law:**

- 1) Requires licensing boards under DCA to promulgate regulations to evaluate and credit military education, training, and experience in meeting licensure requirements, if the military education, training, and experience are applicable to the profession. (Business and Professions Code. (BPC) Section 35)
- 2) Authorizes a licensee whose license expired while serving on active military duty, to reinstate his or her license without examination or penalty upon meeting specified conditions. (BPC Section 114)
- 3) Requires a licensing board under DCA to waive the license renewal fees, continuing education (CE) requirements, and other license renewal requirements for a licensee called to active duty and who will not perform licensed activities while on active duty. (BPC Section 114.3)
- 4) Requires, by July 1, 2015, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, using common course descriptors and pertinent recommendations of the American Council on Education, to determine which courses should grant credit for prior military experience. (Education Code Section 66025.7)

### **The BreEZe System:**

Currently, DCA is in the process of implementing BreEZe, a new database and Web site system that centralizes the licensing and enforcement functions of all the licensing programs under DCA. That implementation is scheduled to take place over an 18-month span during 2013-14 and 2014-15. Once completed, individuals will be able to apply and pay for licenses and consumers can file complaints using a single Web site as a one-stop shop. By delaying implementation until January 1, 2015, costs are significantly minimized and the requirements contained in this bill will not delay the roll-out of the new system.

### **Fiscal Effect:**

Costs should be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1057**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Medina**

February 22, 2013

---

---

An act to add Section 114.5 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1057, as amended, Medina. Professions and vocations: licenses: military service.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law authorizes a licensee or registrant whose license expired while the licensee or registrant was on active duty as a member of the California National Guard or the United States Armed Forces to, upon application, reinstate his or her license without penalty and without examination, if certain requirements are satisfied, unless the licensing agency determines that the applicant has not actively engaged in the practice of his or her profession while on active duty, as specified.

This bill would require each board, *commencing January 1, 2015*, to inquire in every application for licensure if the applicant is serving in, or has previously served in, the military.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 114.5 is added to the Business and
- 2 Professions Code, to read:
- 3 114.5. ~~Each~~ *Commencing January 1, 2015, each* board shall
- 4 inquire in every application for licensure if the applicant is serving
- 5 in, or has previously served in, the military.

O