



**Overland
Park
Chamber™**

To: Senator Rob Olson and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee

From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

Date: 23 February 2021

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce requests that the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee act favorably on SB 137. This bill would expand the military spouse and servicemember's expedited licensure law to other applicants who intend to relocate to Kansas. Streamlining the process helps make Kansas more inviting to holders of various professional certifications and allows them to engage in their chosen profession with minimal delays. This is good for the worker, good for our businesses and good for our state.

The bill streamlines the process for new residents to obtain the necessary certifications and licenses they need to work in Kansas provided they have satisfied substantially similar licensing requirements in another state. It is important to note that this bill does consider public safety and contains provisions allowing licensing bodies to require additional training of the applicant.

It is critical that Kansas remain competitive when seeking to grow our workforce. Measures such as SB 137 minimize delays and sends a welcoming message to prospective residents who possess the skills our employers are seeking.

A skilled workforce is critical to our success and removing barriers to work will help make Kansas more competitive. Because of this we urge the Committee recommend SB 137 for approval.