

Licensure for Veterans; HB 2078

HB 2078 enacts new law and amends existing requirements for licensing bodies and licensure for military service members, and also amends prior law regarding military experience for the licensing of practical nurses and emergency medical technicians.

Licensing Bodies and Licensure for Military Service Members

Among the provisions relating to licensing bodies and licensure for military service members, the bill:

- Requires a licensing body to accept from an applicant with an honorable discharge (or a general discharge under honorable conditions) the education, training, or service completed in military service toward any educational requirements for certification or licensure;
- Requires the education, training, or service completed in the military to be substantially equivalent to the existing educational requirement of such licensure or certification;
- Allows the licensing body to require documentation related to the education, training, or service;
- Allows a licensing board to accept education, training, or service if a person was separated from military service with a general discharge under honorable conditions;
- Establishes new definitions in existing law;
- Allows a licensing body to issue a temporary permit so the military service member may lawfully practice their occupation when the military service member's current license is not equivalent to the standards of the licensing body. During this time, the military service member must complete any necessary requirements;
- Allows a licensing board to grant certification, licensure, or a temporary permit to any person who meets the necessary requirements and was separated from military service with a general discharge under honorable conditions; and
- Permits licensing bodies to adopt rules and regulations.

The bill defines, in the new law created by the bill, "applicant" as "a person who entered into military service and separated from such military service with an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions." The bill also defines the terms "licensing body"

and “military service.” Under the new requirements established by the bill, a “licensing body” does not include the Kansas State Board of Nursing and the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Additionally, the new requirements do not apply to practice of law or the regulation of attorneys.

Practical or Professional Nursing and Emergency Medical Technician Experience, U.S. Military

The bill authorizes the Board of Nursing to waive a requirement that an applicant graduate from an approved school of practical or professional nursing if the applicant attained a passing score on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses and provided evidence of practical nursing experience within the U.S. military.

The applicant must have separated from military service with an honorable discharge or under honorable conditions.

The bill also requires the granting of an Attendant’s Certificate to an applicant who holds a current and active certification with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and who completed emergency medical technician training as a member of the U.S. military. For these provisions to apply, the applicant must have received an honorable discharge or have been separated under honorable conditions.