



# Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs  
MassHire Workforce Board Directors  
Title I Administrators  
MassHire Career Center Directors  
Title I Fiscal Officers  
MDCS Operations Managers

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
MassHire Department of Career Services

**Date:** June 6, 2019

**Subject:** **Resources for Military Spouses, American Job Center Staff, and Organizations that Support Spouses in Licensed Occupations**

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**Purpose:** To provide resources to MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other workforce partners to assist military spouses in licensed occupations. The US Department of Labor, Employment and Training has posted several resources on [WorkforceGPS](#).

**Background:** In October 2018, there were over 630,000 military spouses in the United States. Compared to civilians, military spouses are 10 times more likely to have moved to a new state in the last year due to military relocation. For those who work in licensed occupations it can be time-consuming and costly to obtain licensure in a new state.

These difficulties contribute to employment gaps and underemployment within military families, which can lead to additional stress and financial strain that could also impact military spouses' health and well-being, as well as service members' military readiness.

In recent years, most states have passed laws creating streamlined license recognition options for military spouses. The U.S. Department of Labor has created resources to help military spouses, organizations that support military spouses, and state agencies and licensing boards understand and take advantage of these laws:

[Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Map](#)

Many states have laws to make it easier for military spouses relocating from out-of-state to carry their occupational licenses to a new state. Use the map and license finder tool on this page to learn about these state laws and find out where to apply for an occupational license in a new state.

[License Recognition for Military Spouses – A Resource Guide](#)

The Resource Guide explains how many states now have laws in place that require or encourage licensing boards to grant military spouses expedited applications, temporary licenses, or license recognition. The Guide outlines four steps that guides military spouses working in licensed occupations through the process of transferring and gaining recognition for their license. Also included are tips for spouses on what to say when talking to the licensing board.

[Women’s Bureau – Meeting in a Box](#)

The Women's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor provides assistance to support employment opportunities for military spouses. To help communicate about this important issue, we have created Meeting in a Box, a communication resource that includes a presentation slide deck with notes, a fact sheet, and talking points. The resource provides information to use in meetings, speeches, or incorporate important messages in a presentation. These tools can be used as stand-alone pieces, or in combination, depending on the audience and setting.

**Action**

**Requested:** Please share with management, staff and partners as appropriate.