COI\'IMONWEALTII OF MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF IIEALTII PROFESSIONS LICENSURE

Division Policy I-" -U#

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| Title | VALOR ACT 11\JPLEi\IENTATION |
| Purpose | The Division of Health Professions Li .:cnsure adopts this policy to f 1cilitate implementation provisions of the Valor Act of 2012 by the nine Boards of Registration within the Division. |
| D ltc Adopted | Division:  Board of Registration in Pharmacy : has not been adopted Board of Registration in Dentistry : has not been adopted Board of Registration in Nursing : has not been adopted  Boan.l of Registration in Nursing Ilome Administrators : has not been adopted  Board of Registration in Respiratory Care: has not been adopted Board of Registmtion of Physician Assistants : ha not been adopted Board of Registration of Perfusionists : has not been adopted  Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors: has not been adopted  Board ofCcrtifkation of Community llealth Workers: has not been adopted |
| Definitions | Division: Division of Health Professions Licensure within the Department of Publi<.: llcallh.  Boards (plural): The nine Boards of Registration within the Division of llealth Professions Licensure under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Department of Puhli<.: llealth .  Board (singular) : The particular board that has issued a license to an Active Duty Service Member, or to which an application for licensure has been submitted by a Military Tran sfer Spouse, provided that such hoard has adopted this policy.  Valor Act: Chapter 108 ofthc Acts of2012, *..In Act Rclatil·e to l 'eteran's ..tccess. Ut'C!ilwod, OpporlulliZI' lmd Resources.* |
| License in l!ood standing : A li<.:ense, registration or certification issued that is either current or expired, but not revoked, suspended , surrendered, placed on probation or subject to restrictions pursuant to a consent agreement or Board Order.  Rel!istration period : The period in which, in the absence of the Valor Act , a license, registration or ccrlilkate would remain valid prior to expiration .  Renewal indow :The 90 day period of time immediately preceding the next expiration date, during which a .:urrcnt li<.:ense may he renewed f()r the next renewal cycle. |

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Valor Act Implementation



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| Definitions, continued | Service Member : A member of the United States Anny, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public llcalth Services, National Guard and Reserve.  Active Dutv Service Member: A service member who is on active duty status or on active duty orders.  Militarv Transfer Spouse: The spouse of a service member in the following circumstances : (I) the service member is the subject of a military transfer to the Commonwealth , (2) the spouse holds a comparable license in good standing in another state and qualilies lor reciprocity licensure.: in the Commonwealth, and (3) the spouse has Jell employment in order to accompany the service member to the Commonwealth.  Period of activ e duty : The period of lime during which a service member is on active duty corresponding to the start and end dates of the service member's commitment. In the case of a service member whose commitment is indelinite, the period of active duty for this policy ends on the expected retirement date idcntilicd by the service member, until and unless the Board obtains documentation which indicates that the service member has been discharged prior to that date.  Earliest expiration date: The (btc which falls ninety days alter the end of the period of active duty. |
| Liaison | I . The Division shall design<ttc one or more division employees to serve Valor Act Liaison (VAL). The role of the VAL shall be to:   1. answer in<Juiries about the applicability of the Valor Act ; 2. ntcilitate the proces sing or application s submitted by active duty service members, veterans and military spouses; 3. make recommendation s to the Boards pertinent to implementation of Valor   Act requirements:   1. direct the waiv er of lees in accordance with the Valor Act on behalfofBoards   that adopt this policy ;  c. direct the issuance of initial and renewed licenses in accordance with the  Valor Act on behalfofBoards that adopt this policy; and |
| f. provide training and guidance to the Boards and to Division staff with respect  to the provisions and requirement s of the Valor Act. |
| Board  Au thoriz:t tion | *1.* A Board's adoption of this policy authorizes the Valor Act Liaison to act on the Board's behalf as speci lied in this policy. |
| Forms and  lnfommtion | 3. The VAL shall prepare the Division's website content relating to the Valor Act , including standardi i'ed affidavit l<..mns, Frequently Asked Question s (FAQ) and links to uscll.tl inl(mmltion. Boards adopting this policy may include a link to the Division's website content on the Board's own website . |

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Valor :\ct Implement ation



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| Active Duty Service Memhers | 1. The VAL shall review information submitted by a person who identifies himself or herself as an Active Duty Service Member and determine whether that person (I)   holds a license issued by a Board that has adopted this policy that is in good standing, and (2) is an Active Duty Service Member us delined in this policy .   * 1. The Bourd authori ;--cs the VAL to direct the issuance of a license card f(w the cutTent or next registration period to an Active Duty Service Member whose   license is in good standing, and to waive any renewal and late fees, if:   * + 1. the license is "current," within the renewal window and the nonnal "expiration " date Iiliis within the period of active duty, or   11. the license has "expired" but the "expiration" occun·ed during the period of active duty.   1. The VAL shall be authori ;--ed by the Board to waive the requirement that the individual complete continuing education requirements, if such requirements arc imposed as a condition for license renewal. 2. The VAL shall create and maintain a file lor each Active Duty Service Member and shall maintain a log of activities and rclcvunt dates relating to Active Duty Service Members . |
| 1\lilitary Transfet· Spouses | 5. The VAL shall review inl(wmation submitted by a person who identities himself or herself as a Military Translcr Spouse und determine whether that person (I) is a Military Transfer Spouse as dclined in this policy, and (2) hus submitted an application l(n initial licensure or l(w reacti vation of an expired license. The Board authori :.-:es the VAL to direct expediting the processing of a Military Transkr Spouse's application f()r initial licensure. |
| Actions re<Juiring Full Bo:ard | 6. The VAL shall bring to the next scheduled meeting of the Board , any matter where the particular Board action required for compliance with the Valor Act is not specified in this policy . |
| Report to  Bo:anl | 7. The VAL shall provide a written report to each Board thut adopts this policy at each regularly scheduled meeting of each such Bourd . The report shall list all actions taken on the Board 's hehalfpursuunt to this policy since the previous meeting of the Board . |

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Valor Act Implementation

