

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSURE**

Division Policy 14 – 0#

Title	VALOR ACT IMPLEMENTATION
Purpose	The Division of Health Professions Licensure adopts this policy to facilitate implementation provisions of the Valor Act of 2012 by the nine Boards of Registration within the Division.
Date Adopted	<p>Division:</p> <p>Board of Registration in Pharmacy: has not been adopted</p> <p>Board of Registration in Dentistry: has not been adopted</p> <p>Board of Registration in Nursing: has not been adopted</p> <p>Board of Registration in Nursing Home Administrators: has not been adopted</p> <p>Board of Registration in Respiratory Care: has not been adopted</p> <p>Board of Registration of Physician Assistants: has not been adopted</p> <p>Board of Registration of Perfusionists: has not been adopted</p> <p>Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors: has not been adopted</p> <p>Board of Certification of Community Health Workers: has not been adopted</p>
Definitions	<p><u>Division</u>: Division of Health Professions Licensure within the Department of Public Health.</p> <p><u>Boards (plural)</u>: The nine Boards of Registration within the Division of Health Professions Licensure under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health.</p> <p><u>Board (singular)</u>: 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 Transfer Spouse, provided that such board has adopted this policy.</p> <p><u>Valor Act</u>: Chapter 108 of the Acts of 2012, <i>An Act Relative to Veteran's Access, Livelihood, Opportunity and Resources</i>.</p> <p><u>License in good standing</u>: A license, 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.</p> <p><u>Registration period</u>: The period in which, in the absence of the Valor Act, a license, registration or certificate would remain valid prior to expiration.</p> <p><u>Renewal window</u>: The 90 day period of time immediately preceding the next expiration date, during which a current license may be renewed for the next renewal cycle.</p>

<p>Definitions, continued</p>	<p><u>Service Member</u>: A member of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Services, National Guard and Reserve.</p> <p><u>Active Duty Service Member</u>: A service member who is on active duty status or on active duty orders.</p> <p><u>Military Transfer Spouse</u>: The spouse of a service member in the following circumstances: (1) 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 qualifies for reciprocity licensure in the Commonwealth, and (3) the spouse has left employment in order to accompany the service member to the Commonwealth.</p> <p><u>Period of active duty</u>: The period of time 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 indefinite, the period of active duty for this policy ends on the expected retirement date identified by the service member, until and unless the Board obtains documentation which indicates that the service member has been discharged prior to that date.</p> <p><u>Earliest expiration date</u>: The date which falls ninety days after the end of the period of active duty.</p>
<p>Liaison</p>	<p>1. The Division shall designate one or more division employees to serve Valor Act Liaison (VAL). The role of the VAL shall be to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. answer inquiries about the applicability of the Valor Act; b. facilitate the processing of applications submitted by active duty service members, veterans and military spouses; c. make recommendations to the Boards pertinent to implementation of Valor Act requirements; d. direct the waiver of fees in accordance with the Valor Act on behalf of Boards that adopt this policy; e. direct the issuance of initial and renewed licenses in accordance with the Valor Act on behalf of Boards that adopt this policy; and f. provide training and guidance to the Boards and to Division staff with respect to the provisions and requirements of the Valor Act.
<p>Board Authorization</p>	<p>2. A Board's adoption of this policy authorizes the Valor Act Liaison to act on the Board's behalf as specified in this policy.</p>
<p>Forms and Information</p>	<p>3. The VAL shall prepare the Division's website content relating to the Valor Act, including standardized affidavit forms, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and links to useful information. Boards adopting this policy may include a link to the Division's website content on the Board's own website.</p>

<p>Active Duty Service Members</p>	<p>4. 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 (1) 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 as defined in this policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board authorizes the VAL to direct the issuance of a license card for the current 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the license is “current,” within the renewal window and the normal “expiration” date falls within the period of active duty, or ii. the license has “expired” but the “expiration” occurred during the period of active duty. b. The VAL shall be authorized by the Board to waive the requirement that the individual complete continuing education requirements, if such requirements are imposed as a condition for license renewal. c. The VAL shall create and maintain a file for each Active Duty Service Member and shall maintain a log of activities and relevant dates relating to Active Duty Service Members.
<p>Military Transfer Spouses</p>	<p>5. The VAL shall review information submitted by a person who identifies himself or herself as a Military Transfer Spouse and determine whether that person (1) is a Military Transfer Spouse as defined in this policy, and (2) has submitted an application for initial licensure or for reactivation of an expired license. The Board authorizes the VAL to direct expediting the processing of a Military Transfer Spouse’s application for initial licensure.</p>
<p>Actions requiring Full Board</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Report to Board</p>	<p>7. The VAL shall provide a written report to each Board that adopts this policy at each regularly scheduled meeting of each such Board. The report shall list all actions taken on the Board’s behalf pursuant to this policy since the previous meeting of the Board.</p>