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**AUG 9 2024**  
**BLR**

**20 UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBER LICENSURE**

- A. As used in this subsection, “uniformed service veteran” means a former member of the United States Uniformed Services discharged under circumstances other than dishonorable.
- B. The Board shall grant automatic licensure to an individual who is the holder in good standing of a license with a similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of the U.S. and is:
1. A uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
  2. A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; or
  3. The spouse of:
    - a. A person under B (1) or (2) above;
    - b. A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member’s spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; or
    - c. A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state.
- C. The Board shall grant such automatic licensure upon receipt of all the below:
1. Payment of the initial licensure fee;
  2. Evidence that the individual holds a license with a similar scope of practice in another state; and
  3. Evidence that the applicant is a qualified applicant under Section B.
- D. The expiration date of a license for a deployed uniform service member or spouse will be extended for one hundred and eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member’s return from deployment.
- E. A full exemption from continuing education requirements will be allowed for a deployed uniform service member or spouse until one hundred and eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member’s return from deployment.
- F. The board shall accept relevant and applicable uniformed service education, training, national certification, or service-issued credential toward licensure qualifications or

requirements when considering an application for initial licensure of an individual listed in Ark. Code Ann. § 17-4-104.

## **21 RECIPROCITY**

- a. RECIPROCITY. The Board will only consider a grant of reciprocity to an individual from a state which grants reciprocity to Arkansas licensees. The Board shall require that any person requesting reciprocity of the State of Arkansas shall meet the requirements as set forth in Ark. Code. Ann. §17-89-305 and §17-89-306 and provide written proof from the appropriate board or agency of reciprocity to Arkansas licensees from the state they are currently licensed.

## **22 SEVERABILITY**

- a. SEVERABILITY. These rules being for the regulation of the business of ophthalmic dispensing and the protection of the public, the provisions hereby are declared to be severable and the invalidity of any rule, clause, sentence, paragraph or section hereof shall not affect the validity of the remainder thereof.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

As Engrossed: S2/9/23

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 193

5 By: Senators Hill, *Irvin, J. Boyd*  
6 By: Representative Eubanks  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING  
10 OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND SPOUSES  
11 ACT OF 2021; TO ADD CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL  
12 CERTIFICATIONS TOWARD INITIAL OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE  
13 AND EXTEND THE APPLICATION TO SPOUSES; TO ELIMINATE  
14 THE ONE-YEAR LIMIT FOR VETERANS TO APPLY SERVICE  
15 EDUCATION, TRAINING, OR CERTIFICATIONS TOWARD INITIAL  
16 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

19 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL  
20 LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS,  
21 VETERANS, AND SPOUSES ACT OF 2021.  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

28 It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

29 (1) Add national certifications to be considered toward  
30 occupational licensure requirements;

31 (2) Extend application for initial licensure to the spouse of a  
32 uniformed service member or a uniformed service veteran; and

33 (3) Remove the one-year limit for veterans to apply service  
34 education, training, or certifications toward occupational licensure.  
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36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-4-107 is amended to read as follows:



1 17-4-107. Acceptance of uniformed service education, training,  
2 national certification, or service-issued credential.

3 An occupational licensing entity shall accept relevant and applicable  
4 uniformed service education, training, national certification, or service-  
5 issued credential toward occupational licensure qualifications or  
6 requirements when considering an application for initial licensure of an  
7 individual listed in § 17-4-104 ~~who is:~~

8 ~~(1) A uniformed service member; or~~

9 ~~(2) A uniformed service veteran who makes an application within~~  
10 ~~one (1) year of his or her discharge from uniformed service.~~

11  
12 /s/Hill

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15 **APPROVED: 2/24/23**  
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