



Report on Recognizing and Accepting Military Training for Licensing of Practitioners Regulated by the Connecticut Department of Public Health

December 2018



OVERVIEW

Section 4-61bb of the Connecticut General Statutes requires various state governmental entities to certify, waive, grant, or award certain licenses, registrations, examinations, training or credit for Veterans, armed forces or National Guard members with military experience or qualifications similar to those otherwise required. These governmental entities are defined as "licensing authority" and include the Departments of Consumer Protection, Emergency Services and Public Protection, Labor, Motor Vehicles, Public Health, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Office of Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut or the Police Officer Standards and Training Council.

Additionally, Subsection (c) of Section 4-61bb requires each licensing authority, to submit an annual report to the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the General Assembly and the Department of Labor regarding certain data associated with service members' applications for licenses, certificates or permits. The annual report is mandated to include the following:

(A) The number of service members who applied for a military training evaluation pursuant to section 31-22u, a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied;

(B) the number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was approved;

(C) the number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was denied, and data on the reasons for any such denial;

(D) the licensing authority's processing time for applications that are within such licensing authority's purview where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied and are submitted by service members and the average processing time for all applications;

(E) information on the licensing authority's efforts to inform and assist service members in accessing programs that provide the education and training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or educational credit;

(F) information on whether existing law effectively addresses the challenges that service members face when applying for an occupational or professional license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit upon discharge from military service or relocating to the state; and

(G) recommendations on improving the licensing authority's ability to meet the occupational needs of service members, including, but not limited to, the issuance of temporary or provisional licenses, certificates or registrations. The Labor Department shall also include in its report the number of service members who were issued or denied a recommendation for review or a deduction from the hours of apprenticeship training pursuant to section 31-22u.

REQUIRED ELEMENTS

The Department of Public Health respectfully submits the following information as required pursuant to section 4-61bb regarding the license, permits and certificates issued by the Department of Public Health (DPH):

Number of services members who applied for a military training evaluation: 0

The number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was approved: 21

The number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit was denied: 0

Processing time for applications that are within such licensing authority's purview where military training or experience is relevant: 28 days¹

Average processing time for all applications: 51 days

Professional licenses issued by the Department of Public Health are primarily healthcare related (physicians, nurses, dentists, psychologists, etc.). Although in some circumstances, the Armed Forces may send a member to an accredited institution of higher education to complete civilian education and become licensed, the Armed Forces primarily recruit and train appropriately educated and licensed healthcare providers and trains them to be members of a military unit whose mission is to provide medical care to its Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen. With the exception of nurse aides and emergency medical services personnel, all of the professional license types issued by DPH do not have an equivalent military training component one would complete as a member of the Armed Forces.

Military trained medics and corpsman complete equivalent training required for nurse aide certification. Upon completion of the required examination, a military trained medic or corpsman qualifies for registration as a Connecticut nurse aide.

Military trained medics complete training that is equivalent to that required by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and upon completion are required to

¹ Applicants for license have already completed the required examination. This type of applicant will not need to wait for the next available examination. That is why processing times are shorter.

become registered by the by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). Current Connecticut Public Health Code regulations allow for applicants to be issued certification or licensure provided the applicant is certified by the NREMT in the appropriate discipline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As most healthcare provider members of the Armed Forces are appropriately educated, trained and licensed prior to entering military service, DPH does not have any recommendations regarding changes to the existing statutory and regulatory structure. The General Statutes and Public Health Code already provide the statutory and regulatory authority to allow DPH to issue nurse aide and EMS personnel certification to Armed Forces trained medics and corpsman.

DPH recommends that the Committee consider defining the timeframe from when the Veteran separates from military service to the date of application for licensure. Applicants who have been separated from service for a significant period of time may need to complete a period of refresher training prior to resuming professional practice.

Sec. 4-61bb. Inquiry by licensing authority of service member's status. Annual reports re application of military training or experience for service members.

(a) For the purposes of this section, "licensing authority" means the Department of Consumer Protection, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Labor Department, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Public Health, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Office of Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut or the Police Officer Standards and Training Council; "service member" means a member of the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran; "armed forces" has the same meaning as set forth in section 27-103; and "veteran" means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

(b) Each licensing authority shall ask each applicant for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied whether such applicant is a service member.

(c) (1) On or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, each licensing authority, except the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut, shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs and higher education and employment advancement, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, and the Labor Department that shall include the following: (A) The number of service members who applied for a military training evaluation pursuant to section 31-22u, a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied; (B) the number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was approved; (C) the number of service members whose application for a license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit that is within such licensing authority's purview and where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was denied, and data on the reasons for any such denial; (D) the licensing authority's processing time for applications that are within such licensing authority's purview where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied and are submitted by service members and the average processing time for all applications; (E) information on the licensing authority's efforts to inform and assist service members in accessing programs that provide the education and training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or educational credit; (F) information on whether existing law effectively addresses the challenges that service members face when applying for an occupational or professional license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit upon discharge from military service or relocating to the state; and (G) recommendations on improving the licensing authority's ability to meet the occupational needs of service members, including, but not limited to, the issuance of temporary or provisional licenses, certificates or registrations. The Labor Department shall also include in its report the number of service members who were issued or denied a recommendation

for review or a deduction from the hours of apprenticeship training pursuant to section 31-22u.

(2) On or before July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall each submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs and higher education and employment advancement, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, and the Labor Department that shall (A) include the information required pursuant to subparagraphs (A), (B), (E), (F) and (G) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (B) in aggregate, detail the types of military training presented, the types of educational credit awarded to enrolled service members for such training and the types of military training for which credit was not awarded to enrolled service members.

(d) On or before January 1, 2016, each licensing authority shall, within existing budgetary resources, publish on its Internet web site a link to the Department of Veterans Affairs informational Internet web site established pursuant to section 27-100f and the Internet web site maintained by the executive branch listing resources and opportunities available to veterans.

(e) On or before January 1, 2016, the Labor Department shall post the reports submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section on its Internet web site.