



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

**State of Connecticut**

**January 2020**

## OVERVIEW

Public Act 14-131, An Act Concerning the Findings of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force, was signed into law by Governor Malloy in June 2014. The Public Act, now codified in 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.

Additionally, the Public Act mandates that by January 1, 2015 each licensing authority identified in the Act must submit an inaugural annual report to the Veterans' Affairs and Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committees of the General Assembly and the Connecticut Department of Labor regarding certain data associated with service members' applications for licenses, certificates or permits.

## REQUIRED ELEMENTS

The following provides the required information pertaining to licenses, permits and certificates issued by the Department of Public Health (DPH) during calendar year 2019:

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

Number of service members whose application for a license, certificate, registration or an educational credit where military training or experience is relevant and could be applied was approved: 31

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

Processing time for applications that are within DPH's purview where military training or experience is relevant: 18 days<sup>1</sup>

Average processing time for all applications: 45 days

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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 appropriately educated and licensed healthcare providers and train them to be members of a military unit whose mission is to provide medical care to its Soldiers, Sailors, Marines or Airmen. With the exception of nurse aides and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, none of the professional license types issued by DPH have an equivalent military training component that one would complete as a member of the Armed Forces.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Additionally, military trained medics also complete training that is equivalent to that required by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and upon completion are required to become registered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 19a-179-16a allow for applicants to be issued certification or licensure provided the applicant is certified by the NREMT in the appropriate discipline.

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 Connecticut General Statutes and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies 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 Committees consider defining an appropriate length of time after an applicant's separation from military service for the purposes enumerated in the Public Act. 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.