
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Senate Bill 654

Senate Amendment 1

2019 Senate Bill 654 specifies standards for issuing a reciprocal occupational credential to military service members, former service members, and their spouses. The reciprocity provisions apply to any occupational credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), one of the credentialing boards housed by DSPS, or the Veterinary Examining Board.

CURRENT LAW

Currently, a spouse of a service member is entitled to receive a temporary reciprocal occupational credential in Wisconsin if the person:

- Temporarily resides in Wisconsin as a result of the spouse's service in the U.S. armed forces, a reserve unit of the armed forces, or the national guard of any state;
- Holds a license, certification, registration, or permit granted by a different jurisdiction that qualifies the person to perform the acts that are authorized under the credential for which he or she is applying; and
- Meets any other requirements that may have been established by rule for the particular profession.

The reciprocal credential is generally valid for only 180 days, but can be extended.

2019 SENATE BILL 654

The bill expands this provision. It entitles service members, former service members who were discharged within the prior four years under conditions other than dishonorable, and spouses of service members or former service members to obtain a reciprocal credential in Wisconsin if the person:¹

- Resides in Wisconsin;
- Holds a license, certification, registration, or permit granted by a different jurisdiction that qualifies the person to perform the acts that are authorized under the credential for which he or she is applying; and
- Is in good standing in every other jurisdiction in which he or she holds the license, certification, registration, or permit upon which reciprocity is based.

The reciprocal credential can be renewed indefinitely. In addition, DSPS (or the applicable credentialing board) is required to expedite the issuance of a reciprocal credential and is authorized to promulgate rules to implement the issuance of reciprocal credentials.

¹ More specifically, "service member" means a member of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces, or the national guard of any state. "Former service member" means a person who was discharged from the U.S. armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable within four years of the date on which the service member or spouse of the service member applies for a reciprocal credential.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

The amendment specifies that, for the purpose of the reciprocity provisions described above, the term “spouse” includes the spouse of a person who died while in service in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces.

The amendment also allows an applicant to submit an affidavit stating that he or she is a service member, former service member, or spouse of a service member or former service member, if other documentation is not available.

Finally, the amendment states that if a reciprocal credential is granted within 180 days of the next credential renewal date, the credential holder is exempt from the first renewal period and the credential does not expire until the following renewal date.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Kapenga introduced 2019 Senate Bill 654 on January 8, 2020, and offered Senate Amendment 1 on January 28, 2020. On February 11, 2020, the Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing, and State-Federal Relations unanimously recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended.

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