ARTICLE 8. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

I. Military Licensure

1. As used in this subsection, “returning military veteran” means a former member of the United States Armed Forces who was discharged from active duty under circumstances other than dishonorable.

2. The Board shall grant expedited licensure to an individual who holds a substantially equivalent license in another U.S. jurisdiction and is:
   a. An active duty military service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
   b. A returning military veteran applying for licensure within one (1) year of his or discharge from active duty; or
   c. The spouse of a person under Article 8.I.2.a. or b.

3. The Board shall grant such expedited licensure upon receipt of all of the below:
   a. Payment of the initial licensure fee;
   b. Evidence that the individual holds a substantially equivalent license in another state; and
   c. Evidence that the applicant is a qualified applicant under Article 8.I.2.a., b., or c.; and
   d. For professional surveying applicants, evidence that the applicant has passed the Arkansas state surveying examination.
Military Licensure Application

Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors

MILITARY EXPEDITED LICENSURE
Paper Application

General Information:
Name:____________________________________ PELS Application #:___________________
Primary phone:____________________ Secondary phone:________________________
Email address:_________________________  
Company name:_______________________________
Address:__________________________________
_________________________________  
_________________________________

It is very important that we always have current contact information. To access, verify, and change your PELS contact information, visit https://pelslicensing.arkansas.gov/Home.aspx and login with your username.

Military License Requirements: In accordance with Ark. Code. Ann. § 17-1-106, and Article 8.I of Rules of the Board, the Arkansas Board Of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Professional Surveyors (Board) shall grant expedited licensure upon receipt of the following:
1. Payment of the initial license fee $200.00.
2. Evidence that the individual holds a substantially equivalent license in another U.S. jurisdiction; and:
   a. Comity License Type: PE (____)        PS (_____)
      State of License: __________________________________
   b. Date of Licensure: ___________________________ Expires: _______________
   c. Applicant has disciplinary action: _____yes    _____no
   d. Applicant has a felony: _____yes    _____no
3. Evidence (i.e., Leave Earning Statement (LES), Letter from Command, Copy of Orders, DD-214) that the applicant is qualified under one of the following;
   a. _____An active military duty stationed in Arkansas, or
   b. _____A returning military veteran with discharge from active duty under circumstances other than dishonorable within the past twelve (12) months, or
   c. _____The spouse of a person under a. or b.
4. If you are seeking an Arkansas PS, you must pass the AR State Specific Exam to receive PS-Comity licensure.

CERTIFICATION BY SIGNATURE – I do hereby certify that I have read the Rules of the Board and by submitting this application I agree to be bound by the Acts of Arkansas, Rules of the Board and that a violation of any of the above could be the basis for revocation of my license.

_________________________  ________________________________________________  Date
Printed name of Applicant  Signature of Applicant

Military Licensure Application  (updated 9/28/2020)
State of Arkansas
As Engrossed: S3/28/19
A Bill
SENATE BILL 564

By: Senators Irvin, T. Garner, J. Hendren, D. Wallace
By: Representative Bentley

For An Act To Be Entitled
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS, RETURNING MILITARY VETERANS, AND THEIR SPOUSES; TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC LICENSURE; TO REQUIRE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RULES SUBMITTED BY OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING ENTITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle
TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS, RETURNING MILITARY VETERANS, AND THEIR SPOUSES; TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC LICENSURE; TO REQUIRE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RULES SUBMITTED.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Intent.
The General Assembly finds that:
(1) The current law regarding the issuance of licenses, certificates, and permits required to enable the holder to lawfully engage in a profession, trade, or employment in this state continues to constitute a hardship on active duty service members, returning military veterans, and their spouses;
(2) Acts 2017, No. 248, amended the law to require that all state boards and commissions promulgate rules to expedite the process and
procedures for full licensure, certification, or permitting for active duty
service members, returning military veterans, and their spouses;

(3) State boards and commissions required to promulgate rules by
Acts 2017, No. 248, have failed to do so in accordance with the law; and

(4) Automatic licensure is necessary to remedy these hardships
and allow active duty service members, returning military veterans, and their
spouses to engage in their chosen professions.

Section 2. Arkansas Code § 17-1-106 is amended to read as follows:

17-1-106. Licensure, certification, or permitting of Automatic
licensure for active duty service members, returning military veterans, and
spouses – Definition Definitions.

(a) As used in this section,:

(1) "Automatic licensure" means the granting of occupational
licensure without an individual's having met occupational licensure
requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the occupational
licensing entity;

(2) "Occupational licensing entity" means an office, board,
commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government
having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise
authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession;

(3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate,
registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule
that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
profession; and

(4) "returning Returning military veteran" means a former member
of the United States Armed Forces who was discharged from active duty under
circumstances other than dishonorable.

(b)(1) A state board or commission that issues licenses, certificates,
or permits required to enable the holder to lawfully engage in a profession,
trade, or employment in this state An occupational licensing entity shall
allow grant the following individuals to secure employment with a temporary
license, certificate, or permit while completing the application process for
full licensure or certification or permitting automatic licensure to engage
in an occupation or profession if the to an individual who is the holder in
good standing of a substantially equivalent license, certificate, or permit
As Engrossed: S3/28/19

1. **Occupational License** issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States and is:

   (1)(A) An active duty military service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;

   (2)(B) A returning military veteran applying for licensure within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty; or

   (3)(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (b)(1) and (2) of this section.

   (2) However, an occupational licensing entity shall be required to provide automatic licensure if the proposed rules are not approved as required under subsection (d)(2) of this section.

   (c) A state board or commission shall expedite the process and procedures for full licensure, certification, or permitting for the following individuals:

   (1) An active duty military service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;

   (2) A returning military veteran applying within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty; or

   (3) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (c)(1) and (2) of this section.

   (d) When considering an application for full licensure, certification, or permitting for an active duty military service member stationed in the State of Arkansas or a returning military veteran applying within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty, a state board or commission:

   (1) Shall consider whether or not the applicant’s military training and experience in the area of licensure, certification, or permitting is substantially similar to experience or education required for licensure, certification, or permitting; and

   (2) Shall accept the applicant's military training and experience in the area of licensure, certification, or permitting in lieu of experience or education required for licensure, certification, or permitting if the state board or commission determines the military training and experience is a satisfactory substitute for the experience or education required for licensure, certification, or permitting.

   (e) A license, certificate, or permit required to enable the holder to
lawfully engage in a profession, trade, or employment in this state held by
an active duty military service member deployed outside the State of Arkansas
or his or her spouse shall not expire until one hundred eighty (180) days
following the active duty military service member’s or spouse’s return from
active deployment.

(f)(1) A state board or commission shall allow a full or partial
exemption from continuing education required as part of licensure,
certification, or permitting for a profession, trade, or employment in this
state for the following individuals:

(A) An active duty military service member deployed
outside of the State of Arkansas;

(B) A returning military veteran within one (1) year of
his or her discharge from active duty;

(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (f)(1) and
(f)(2) of this section.

(f)(2) A state board or commission allowing a full or partial
exemption from continuing education required under subdivision (f)(1) of this
section may require evidence of completion of continuing education before
issuing the individual a subsequent license, certificate, or permit or
authorizing the renewal of a license, certificate, or permit.

(g) All state boards and commissions shall promulgate rules necessary
to carry out the provisions of this section.

An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules recommending
an expedited process and procedure for occupational licensure instead of
automatic licensure as provided under subsection (b) of this section to the
Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.

(d) The Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the
Legislative Council shall:

(1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing
entity as submitted for public comment and at least thirty (30) days before
the public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure
Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and

(2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under subsection (c)
based on:

(A) A determination of whether the expedited process and
procedure provide the least restrictive means of accomplishing occupational
licensure; and

(B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the objectives of this section.

(e) The Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council may:
   (1) Establish a subcommittee to assist in the duties assigned under this section;
   (2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more subcommittee of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a subcommittee created under subdivision (e)(1) of this section; or
   (3) Delegate its duties under this section to one (1) or more subcommittees of the Legislative Council, subject to final review and approval of the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.

(f) An occupational licensing entity shall:
   (1) Submit proposed rules authorized under subsection (c) of this section to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for review and approval before the proposed rules are promulgated under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and
   (2) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of automatic licenses and expedited occupational licenses granted under this section to:
       (A) Active duty military service members stationed in the State of Arkansas;
       (B) Returning military veterans applying within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty; or
       (C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (f)(2)(A) and (f)(2)(B) of this section.

SECTION 3. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. An occupational licensing entity proposing rules recommending an expedited process and
procedure for occupational licensure instead of automatic licensure as provided under § 17-1-106(b) to the Administrative Rules and Regulations. Subcommittee of the Legislative Council shall complete the review and approval process of the proposed rules required by § 17-1-106 within one (1) year of the effective date of this act.

/s/Irvin

APPROVED: 4/9/19