

House Bill 188 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Coomer of the 14<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Holcomb of the 81<sup>st</sup>, Yates of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and  
2 businesses, so as to provide that certain military certifications shall entitle persons to obtain  
3 certain professional licenses in this state; to provide that the spouse of a member of the  
4 military living in this state because of the military spouse's assignment shall be entitled to  
5 obtain certain professional licenses based upon his or her licensing in another state; to  
6 provide for powers and duties of the director of the professional licensing boards division of  
7 the Secretary of State; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 SECTION 1.

11 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,  
12 is amended in Chapter 14, relating to electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air  
13 contractors, low-voltage contractors, and utility contractors, by adding two new Code  
14 sections to read as follows:

15 "43-14-15.

16 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

17 (1) 'Discharge' means an honorable discharge or a general discharge from active military  
18 service. Such term shall not mean a discharge under other than honorable conditions, a  
19 bad conduct discharge, or a dishonorable discharge.

20 (2) 'Military' means the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the  
21 armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard.

22 (b) A committee composed of the division director, members of the Governor's Office of  
23 Workforce Development, and members of the relevant divisions of the licensing board  
24 representing the profession for which the applicant is seeking a license shall determine the  
25 military specialties or certifications the training or experience for which substantially meet  
26 or exceed the requirements to obtain a license for Electrical Contractor Class I, Journeyman

27 Plumber, Conditioned Air Contractor Class I, or Utility Foreman. The Governor shall  
28 designate a chairperson from among the members of the committee.  
29 (c) Any current or former member of the military may apply to the licensing board for the  
30 immediate issuance of a license or certification based upon his or her having obtained a  
31 military specialty or certification the training or experience for which substantially meet  
32 or exceed the requirements to obtain a license or certification identified in subsection (b)  
33 of this Code section. In order to qualify under this subsection, an applicant shall make  
34 application not later than 180 days after his or her discharge. Such application shall be in  
35 such form and shall require such documentation as the division director shall determine.  
36 If the applicant satisfies the requirements of this Code section, the division director shall  
37 direct the appropriate division to issue the appropriate license, and the division shall  
38 immediately issue such license; provided, however, that the applicant shall satisfy all  
39 financial and insurance requirements for the issuance of such license. This Code section  
40 shall only apply to the initial issuance of a license. After the initial issuance of a license,  
41 the licensee shall be subject to any provisions relating to the renewal of the license  
42 applicable to all licensees.

43 43-14-16.

44 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'military' means the armed forces of the United  
45 States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the  
46 National Guard.

47 (b) The spouse of any member of the military who resides in this state due to the  
48 assignment of the military spouse and who holds a license or certification from another  
49 state the training, experience, and testing for which substantially meet or exceed the  
50 Georgia requirements to obtain a license or certification as an Electrical Contractor Class  
51 I, Journeyman Plumber, Conditioned Air Contractor Class I, or Utility Foreman shall be  
52 entitled to apply to the licensing board for the immediate issuance of such a license or  
53 certification. In order to qualify under this subsection, an applicant shall make application  
54 not later than 180 days after his or her relocation to the State of Georgia. Such application  
55 shall be in such form and shall require such documentation as the division director shall  
56 determine. A committee composed of the division director, members of the Governor's  
57 Office of Workforce Development, and members of the relevant divisions of the licensing  
58 board representing the profession for which the applicant is seeking a license, with a  
59 chairperson appointed by the Governor from among the membership of the committee,  
60 shall determine whether the training, experience, and testing for obtaining a license in the  
61 relevant foreign state substantially meet or exceed the requirements to obtain the  
62 professional licenses provided in this state. If the applicant satisfies the requirements of

63 this Code section, the division director shall direct the appropriate division to issue the  
 64 appropriate license, and the division shall immediately issue such license; provided,  
 65 however, that the applicant shall satisfy all financial and insurance requirements for the  
 66 issuance of such license. This Code section shall only apply to the initial issuance of a  
 67 license. After the initial issuance of a license, the licensee shall be subject to any  
 68 provisions relating to the renewal of the license applicable to all licensees."

69 **SECTION 2.**

70 Said title is further amended in Chapter 41, relating to residential and general contractors, by  
 71 adding two new Code sections to read as follows:

72 "43-41-18.

73 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

74 (1) 'Discharge' means an honorable discharge or a general discharge from active military  
 75 service. Such term shall not mean a discharge under other than honorable conditions, a  
 76 bad conduct discharge, or a dishonorable discharge.

77 (2) 'Military' means the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the  
 78 armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard.

79 (b) A committee composed of the division director, members of the Governor's Office of  
 80 Workforce Development, and members of the licensing board representing the profession  
 81 of residential-light commercial contracting shall determine the military specialties or  
 82 certifications the training, experience, and testing for which substantially meet or exceed  
 83 the requirements to obtain a residential-light commercial contractor's license. The  
 84 Governor shall designate a chairperson from among the membership of the committee.

85 (c) Any current or former member of the military may apply to the licensing board for the  
 86 immediate issuance of a license or certification based upon his or her having obtained a  
 87 military specialty or certification the training or experience for which substantially meet  
 88 or exceed the requirements to obtain a residential-light commercial contractor's license.  
 89 In order to qualify under this subsection, an applicant shall make application not later than  
 90 180 days after his or her discharge. Such application shall be in such form and shall  
 91 require such documentation as the division director shall determine. If the applicant  
 92 satisfies the requirements of this Code section, the division director shall direct the  
 93 appropriate division to issue the license, and such division shall immediately issue such  
 94 license; provided, however, that the applicant shall satisfy all financial and insurance  
 95 requirements for the issuance of such license. This Code section shall only apply to the  
 96 initial issuance of a license. After the initial issuance of a license, the licensee shall be  
 97 subject to any provisions relating to the renewal of the license applicable to all licensees.

98 43-41-19.

99 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'military' means the armed forces of the United  
100 States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the  
101 National Guard.

102 (b) The spouse of any member of the military who resides in this state due to the  
103 assignment of the military spouse and who holds a license or certification from another  
104 state the training, experience, and testing for which substantially meet or exceed the  
105 Georgia requirements to obtain a license or certification as a residential-light commercial  
106 contractor shall be entitled to apply to the licensing board for the immediate issuance of  
107 such a license. In order to qualify under this subsection, an applicant shall make  
108 application not later than 180 days after his or her relocation to the State of Georgia. Such  
109 application shall be in such form and shall require such documentation as the division  
110 director shall determine. A committee composed of the division director, members of the  
111 Governor's Office of Workforce Development, and members of the relevant divisions of  
112 the licensing board representing the profession for which the applicant is seeking a license,  
113 with a chairperson appointed by the Governor from among the membership of the  
114 committee, shall determine whether the training, experience, and testing for obtaining a  
115 license in the relevant foreign state substantially meet or exceed the requirements to obtain  
116 the professional licenses provided in this state. If the applicant satisfies the requirements  
117 of this Code section, the division director shall direct the appropriate division to issue the  
118 license, and such division shall immediately issue such license; provided, however, that the  
119 applicant shall satisfy all financial and insurance requirements for the issuance of such  
120 license. This Code section shall only apply to the initial issuance of a license. After the  
121 initial issuance of a license, the licensee shall be subject to any provisions relating to the  
122 renewal of the license applicable to all licensees."

123 **SECTION 3.**

124 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.