

House Bill 155 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Martin of the 49th, Jasperse of the 11th, and Reeves of the 99th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions of professions and businesses, so as to provide for the issuance of licenses
3 by endorsement for certain professions; to change certain provisions related to expedited
4 licenses by endorsement for spouses of service members and transitioning service members;
5 to provide for licenses by endorsement for certain professions other than firefighters,
6 healthcare providers, and law enforcement officers; to establish qualifications for such
7 licenses by endorsement; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions and
8 applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
9 purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
13 provisions of professions and businesses, is amended by revising Code Section 43-1-35,
14 relating to expedited license by endorsement for spouse of active or transitioning members
15 of the armed forces, as follows:

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16 "43-1-35.

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

18 (1) 'Firefighter' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 45-9-81.

19 (2) 'Healthcare provider' means any physician or other person licensed or otherwise
 20 authorized in this state to furnish healthcare services, including any dentist, podiatrist,
 21 optometrist, pharmacist, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, clinical social
 22 worker, registered professional nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed
 23 practical nurse, registered optician, physical therapist, chiropractor, physician assistant,
 24 cardiac technician, emergency medical technician, or paramedic.

25 (3) 'Law enforcement officer' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code
 26 Section 45-9-81.

27 ~~(1)~~(4) 'License' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

28 ~~(2)~~(5) 'Other board' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 43-1-34.

29 ~~(3)~~(6) 'Service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section
 30 43-1-34.

31 ~~(4)~~(7) 'State' means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
 32 the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the
 33 jurisdiction of the United States.

34 ~~(5)~~(8) 'Transitioning service member' shall have the same meaning as provided in Code
 35 Section 43-1-34.

36 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other
 37 board shall issue an expedited license by endorsement to any individual who:

38 ~~(1)~~ is a spouse of a service member or transitioning service member stationed within
 39 the State of Georgia; who:

40 ~~(2)~~(1) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another
 41 state for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in
 42 qualifications and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license;

43 ~~(3)~~(2) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or
44 a disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other
45 board in such other state; and

46 ~~(4)~~(3) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of
47 the laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession,
48 business, or trade for which such expedited license by endorsement is being sought.

49 (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a professional licensing board or other
50 board shall issue a license by endorsement to any individual seeking licensure for a
51 profession other than that of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or a law enforcement officer,
52 provided that such individual has:

53 (1) Moved from another state and established residency in this state;

54 (2) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another
55 state prior to establishing residency in this state for which the training, experience, and
56 testing are substantially similar in qualifications and scope to the requirements under this
57 state to obtain a license;

58 (3) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or a
59 disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other board
60 in such other state; and

61 (4) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the
62 laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession,
63 business, or trade for which such license by endorsement is being sought.

64 (d) Subsection (c) of this Code section shall not be used to grant a license by endorsement
65 of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or law enforcement officer to any individual.

66 ~~(e)~~(e) An expedited license by endorsement provided for in subsection (b) of this Code
67 section shall be issued no later than 90 days from the date of receipt of an application and
68 information and documents that show that all of the requirements of subsection (b) of this
69 Code section have been met. ~~Such application~~ An application for an expedited license by

70 endorsement or a license by endorsement shall only require such information and
71 documentation necessary to verify that the applicant meets the requirements set forth in
72 subsection (b) or (c), respectively, of this Code section.

73 (f) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to be applicable to a license
74 or admission to practice law in this state.

75 ~~(d)~~(g) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to invalidate, override,
76 or amend any licensing compact entered into by the State of Georgia or to permit the
77 issuance of a license without verification under Code Section 50-36-1."

78 **SECTION 2.**

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