

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2650

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2021

Mr. GARCIA of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Military Spouse Li-  
5        censing Relief Act of 2021”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Thirty percent of military spouses work in  
2 skilled positions requiring a State-issued professional  
3 license or certification, and 30 percent of military  
4 spouses have a four-year degree or greater.

5           (2) Prior to the COVID–19 pandemic, military  
6 spouses faced unemployment at nearly six times the  
7 nationwide unemployment rate.

8           (3) To date, 49 of the 50 States have acknowl-  
9 edged the challenges facing military spouses by tak-  
10 ing various steps to address barriers to professional  
11 licensure.

12           (4) The average military family loses more than  
13 \$10,000 per year in wages and fees due to time-con-  
14 suming and costly relicensing procedures unique to  
15 each State.

16 **SEC. 3. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF**  
17 **MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES**  
18 **AND THEIR SPOUSES.**

19           (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Servicemembers  
20 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 4021 et seq.) is amended by  
21 inserting after section 705 (50 U.S.C. 4025) the following  
22 new section:

1 **“SEC. 705A. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF**  
2 **SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which a service-  
4 member has a professional license in good standing in a  
5 jurisdiction or the spouse of a servicemember has a profes-  
6 sional license in good standing in a jurisdiction and such  
7 servicemember or spouse relocates his or her residency be-  
8 cause of military orders for military service to a location  
9 that is not in such jurisdiction, the professional license or  
10 certification of such servicemember or spouse shall be con-  
11 sidered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the dis-  
12 cipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency  
13 for the duration of such military orders if such service-  
14 member or spouse—

15 “(1) provides a copy of such military orders to  
16 the licensing authority in the jurisdiction in which  
17 the new residency is located;

18 “(2) remains in good standing with the licens-  
19 ing authority that issued the license; and

20 “(3) submits to the authority of the licensing  
21 authority in the new jurisdiction for the purposes of  
22 standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of  
23 any continuing education requirements.

24 “(b) INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACTS.—If a serv-  
25 icemember or spouse of a servicemember is licensed and  
26 able to operate in multiple jurisdictions through an inter-

1 state licensure compact, with respect to services provided  
2 in the jurisdiction of the interstate licensure compact by  
3 a licensee covered by such compact, the servicemember or  
4 spouse of a servicemember shall be subject to the require-  
5 ments of the compact or the applicable provisions of law  
6 of the applicable State and not this section.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
8 in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after  
9 the item relating to section 705 the following new item:

“Sec. 705A. Portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and their  
spouses.”.

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