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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:
(1) Thirty percent of military spouses work in skilled positions requiring a State-issued professional license or certification, and 30 percent of military spouses have a four-year degree or greater.

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

(3) To date, 49 of the 50 States have acknowledged the challenges facing military spouses by taking various steps to address barriers to professional licensure.

(4) The average military family loses more than $10,000 per year in wages and fees due to time-consuming and costly relicensing procedures unique to each State.

SEC. 3. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THEIR SPOUSES.

(a) In general.—Title VII of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 4021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 705 (50 U.S.C. 4025) the following new section:
"SEC. 705A. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OF SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which a servicemember has a professional license in good standing in a jurisdiction or the spouse of a servicemember has a professional license in good standing in a jurisdiction and such servicemember or spouse relocates his or her residency because of military orders for military service to a location that is not in such jurisdiction, the professional license or certification of such servicemember or spouse shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such military orders if such servicemember or spouse—

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

"(2) remains in good standing with the licensing authority that issued the license; and

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

“(b) INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACTS.—If a servicemember or spouse of a servicemember is licensed and able to operate in multiple jurisdictions through an inter-
state licensure compact, with respect to services provided
in the jurisdiction of the interstate licensure compact by
a licensee covered by such compact, the servicemember or
spouse of a servicemember shall be subject to the require-
ments of the compact or the applicable provisions of law
of the applicable State and not this section.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents
in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after
the item relating to section 705 the following new item:

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