

SUBJECT: Temporary licensing for military service members and their spouses

COMMITTEE: Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Chavez, Edwards, Maldonado, Ortiz, Pickett, C. Turner
3 absent — Corte, Vaught, Farias

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 22 — 30-0

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code, ch. 55 exempts active duty military personnel from fees or penalties incurred by the failure to renew a license issued by a state agency if a failure to renew was caused by an individual being on active duty serving outside the state. A state military or reserve member ordered to active duty is entitled to an extension on any continuing education or other requirement related to the renewal of a state license equal to the total number of years or parts of years the person served on active duty.

DIGEST: SB 1240 would require a state agency that issues a license to adopt rules for the expedited issuance of a temporary license to an applicant who was an active duty military service member or the spouse of an active duty military service member, or who was honorably discharged from active duty within a year of applying for the license. An applicant would be required to pay any application or licensing fees and submit the application on a form prescribed by the agency.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.