

SUBJECT: Waiving occupational license, exam fees for certain military and spouses

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

VOTE: 7 ayes — S. King, Frank, Aycock, Blanco, Farias, Schaefer, Shaheen
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Traci Berry, Goodwill Central Texas; Lori Henning, Texas Association of Goodwills; Jim Brennan, Morgan Little, and John A. Miterko, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations (TCVO); Jeffrey Brooks, Texas Conservative Coalition)

Against — None

On — Randy Nesbitt, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation; (*Registered, but did not testify*: E. Carol Miller, DSHS Professional Licensing and Certification Unit; Stan Kurtz, Texas Veterans Commission)

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code, sec. 55.007 requires state agencies that issue licenses to give credit to military service members and veterans for military service, training, or education toward meeting licensing requirements.

DIGEST: HB 2012 would require any state agency that issued licenses to waive the license application and examination fees for certain military members and spouses.

The fee waivers would apply to military service members or veterans whose service, training, or education substantially met all the requirements for the license or to service members, veterans, or military spouses who held a current license issued by another jurisdiction that had substantially equivalent licensing requirements as Texas.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015, and would apply only to an application for an occupational license filed on or after that date.