



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

To: Heads of State Agencies
From: Governor Greg Abbott
Date: August 30, 2023
Re: Servicemembers Civil Relief Act

Texas has prioritized removing barriers to employment for our hardworking military servicemembers and their spouses. In 2019, I signed into law Senate Bill 1200 making it easier to recognize out-of-state occupational licenses for military spouses to help them gain employment. Earlier this year, I signed into law Senate Bill 422 to expand that same licensing reciprocity to servicemembers beginning on September 1, 2023.

Earlier this year, Congress followed Texas' lead by passing an amendment to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which added 50 U.S.C. § 4025a. This provision requires the nationwide recognition of most types of occupational licenses of servicemembers and their spouses when a servicemember relocates due to military orders.

To keep Texas a national leader in supporting our men and women in the military and removing barriers to employment, I am directing Texas state agencies that issue occupational licenses that have not already done so to immediately begin the process of adopting administrative rules in line with the changes established in Senate Bill 422. Agencies must also review 50 U.S.C. § 4025a, evaluate their occupational licensing policies and rules, and implement any changes needed under that law.

Thank you for your cooperation with this initiative. Please reach out to my office with any questions about completing this process. Working together, we will provide servicemembers and their families with the license portability they so richly deserve and have earned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor