



FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

POLICY DOCUMENT

MILITARY MEDICS

ISSUE BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2023

Background

Florida has one of the largest populations of military veterans and their spouses in the nation. More than 1.5 million veterans call Florida home.¹ FHA supports helping military medics transition to the civilian health care workforce. Specifically, FHA supports pathways and programs for retired military medics so they can more easily transition to the civilian health care workforce with the needed qualifications and competencies.

A military medic, or combat medic, is a health care specialist responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at a point of injury in a combat or training environment, as well as primary care and health protection and evacuation from a point of injury or illness. Combat medics may work in hospitals and clinics, where they may also operate medical and laboratory equipment and perform and assist with procedures.²

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) supports military veterans by offering several licensing services to qualified military families. One such service is the Florida Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response (VALOR) process, which provides expedited licensing for honorably discharged veterans (up to 60 months after discharge) and their spouses seeking licensure in all health care professions. Veterans and spouses who apply through the VALOR process receive a waiver of most licensing fees.

DOH also provides:

- Temporary certificates for active-duty members or military veteran physicians to practice in areas of critical need.
- Temporary certificates for health care professionals to treat patients in non-military facilities to develop and maintain their technical skills.
- Renewal exemptions for active-duty service members holding a license in Florida.
- Licensure fee waivers for military veterans and spouses.
- Temporary licensure for spouses of active-duty service members who possess a valid license in another state, the District of Columbia, or any possession or territory of the United States.³

These programs aim to create a veteran-friendly regulatory environment that encourages veterans and their spouses to choose Florida for their health care practice after being discharged from active duty.

¹ (Valor, 2022), [Florida Department of Health: VALOR](#)

² [Field/Combat Medics](#)

³ (Licensing for Military Members and Spouses, 2022), [Licensing for Military Members and Spouses](#)

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State Law

[Senate Bill 562](#), Relating to Military Occupational Licensure by Senator Cruz passed during the 2022 Legislative Session and took effect on July 1, 2022. The law requires the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) and DOH to waive the application fee for licensure and expedite the processing of professional and occupational licenses for the spouse of an active-duty member or surviving spouses of the Armed Forces. The agencies are required to issue a license within seven days after receipt of the completed application with required documentation.

The purpose of the law is to reduce the unemployment rate among retired military members.

SB 562 amended section 455.02, Florida Statutes, and requires DOH to:

- Issue a full professional license, rather than a temporary license, to applicants who satisfy submission requirements, and do so within 7 days after receipt of all required documentation.
- Expedite all applications submitted by an active-duty member's spouse under specified conditions.
- Waive the \$65 application fee.

Resources

[Military Spouses - FL Board of Medicine Requirements](#)

[2021 Health Care Licensing Support Services](#)

[Barriers to Work: Veterans and Military Spouses](#)