

SERVICE RELATED BENEFITS

DID YOU KNOW

PT. 1



Since 2004, General Assembly have passed Georgia Legislation affecting veterans and current service members. These laws provide benefits for service members and their families. Here are a few useful laws you can take advantage of:

01 **HB 266 – Revises Income Tax Exemptions for Military Retirement Income**

- Military Retirement Income: Exemption raised to \$65,000 for retirees 65 or younger; cannot claim both military & standard retirement exemptions.
- Law Enforcement Contributions: Expanded eligible foundations, qualifying expenses, contribution limits, and extended sunset date.

02 **HB 880 – Spouse Licensing for Service Members**

- Expedited Work: Military spouses can practice in-state with an out-of-state license and employer verification.
- 30-Day Rule: If the expedited license isn't issued in 30 days, they may work without a license temporarily.
- Oversight: Licensing boards can investigate and revoke exemptions if wrongdoing is found.

03 **SB 195 – Social Work Licensure Compact Act**

- Interstate Practice: Allows social workers to practice across member states, including via telehealth.
- State Authority: Preserves states' power to regulate and protect public safety.

04 **SB 449 – Military Medical Personnel Licensure Exceptions**

- Temporary Practice: Military medical personnel can work up to 12 months in their trained role without full state licensure.
- Eligible Roles: Certified nurse aides, nurses, paramedics, cardiac techs, EMTs.
- Who Qualifies: Honorably discharged army medics, air force medical techs, navy/coast guard corpsmen within 12 months of discharge.

05 **HB 34 – Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Compact**

- Interstate Practice: Licensed audiologists & speech-language pathologists can practice across all member states.
- Multi-State Agreement: Simplifies licensing and promotes mobility for professionals.

06 **HB 268 – Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact**

- Interstate Practice: Licensed occupational therapists & assistants can practice across all member states.
- Multi-State Agreement: Simplifies licensing and enhances professional mobility.

07 **HB 338 – Veterans' Driver's License**

Eligibility: Georgia residents who are:

- Veterans of U.S. active military, naval, or air service with honorable or general discharge
- Guard/Reserves members with active duty service or 20+ years of creditable service
- U.S. citizen veterans of allied foreign militaries during conflicts with U.S. involvement

08 **HB 740 – Active Duty Military Personnel: Resident Hunting and Fishing Privileges**

- Active duty personnel and their dependents are eligible.
- They can pay the resident rate for all lifetime hunting and fishing licenses.
- They are allowed to hunt or fish without a license on their own property.
- To qualify, they must have been domiciled on the property for at least three months.

09 **SB 82 - HOPE Scholarship and Grant Residency Requirements**

- Current law:
- Active duty military members, their spouses, or dependent children are legal residents of Georgia for HOPE scholarships and grants if:
 - The service member is stationed in Georgia, or
 - Georgia is listed as their home of record.
- New legislation:
- Members of the Georgia National Guard and Reserve Components located in Georgia are also classified as legal residents.
- This meets the residency requirements for HOPE scholarships and grants.

Read more here: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/all>

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10 SB 27 – Veteran Occupation Licenses

- Extended Application: Veterans now have 2 years (up from 180 days) to apply for licenses using military training/certification.
- Flexibility: Licensing Board can further extend deadlines for emergencies like hospitalization.
- Covered Trades: Electrical Contractor Class I, Journeyman Plumber, Conditioned Air Contractor Class I, Utility Foreman.

11 SB 88 – Governor’s Teacher Pipeline

- Support for Veterans: Local schools must back nontraditional teacher certification programs.
- Who Qualifies: Veterans, Reserve, and Active Duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

12 HB 39 – Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

- Interstate Practice: Physical therapists can work across all member states.
- Military Focus: Supports military PTs and spouses working in Georgia.

13 HB 59 – Military Students Enrollment

- Pre-Enrollment Allowed: Children of service members with orders to move to Georgia can enroll before arriving.
- Where: Local school systems and charter schools.

14 HB 218 – HOPE Scholarship Extension

- Extended Eligibility: HOPE scholarship period increased from 7 to 10 years for new recipients (after July 1, 2019).
- Military Exception: Active duty service does not count against the eligibility period.

15 HB 699 – Firefighter Certification for Military Firefighters

- Individuals trained as firefighters under any military branch are eligible.
- They can provide proof of their military firefighter training.
- This proof allows them to be certified as firefighters in Georgia.
- Certification can occur in lieu of the basic fire training usually required for state certification.

16 SB 18 – Technical College Credit for Military Experience

- The Technical College System of Georgia must maintain a policy on granting academic credit.
- Active duty military or veteran students are eligible for such credit.
- The credit applies to college-level learning acquired from military service before enrollment.
- Credit is granted only if the military training and experience are related to the coursework.

17 SB 227 – Interstate Compact on Educational Military Children

- The Compact promotes uniform treatment of military children who transfer between school districts and states.
- It allows states to cooperate, overcoming the limitation that individual states can only control education within their borders.
- The Compact addresses key issues for military families:
 - Eligibility
 - Educational records and enrollment
 - Placement and attendance
 - Graduation
- It establishes a governance structure at both state and national levels with enforcement and compliance mechanisms.
- The provisions apply to children of:
 - Active duty members of the uniformed services, including National Guard and Reserve
 - Members or veterans medically discharged or retired due to severe injury
 - Members who die on active duty or from injuries sustained while on active duty
- The legislation creates the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to form public policy and rulemaking.
- Each state enacting the Compact appoints one member to the Commission.