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AB-107 Licensure: veterans and military spouses. (2021-2022)

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Assembly Bill No. 107

CHAPTER 693

An act to amend Sections 2946 and 5132 of, to amend, repeal, and add Section 115.6 of, and to add Sections 115.8, 115.9, and 10151.3 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to licensure, and making an appropriation therefor.

[Approved by Governor October 08, 2021. Filed with Secretary of State October 08, 2021.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 107, Salas. Licensure: veterans and military spouses.

Under existing law, the Department of Consumer Affairs (department), under the control of the Director of Consumer Affairs, is comprised of various boards that license and regulate various professions and vocations. Existing law requires an applicant seeking a license from a board within the department to meet specified requirements and to pay certain licensing fees. Existing law requires a board within the department to issue, after appropriate investigation, certain types of temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets specified requirements, including that the applicant supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant submits an application to the board that includes a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for a temporary license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. Under existing law, some of the funds within the jurisdiction of a board consist of revenue from fees that are continuously appropriated. Existing law authorizes a board to adopt regulations necessary to administer these provisions.

This bill, on and after January 1, 2023, would expand the requirement to issue temporary licenses to practice a profession or vocation to include licenses issued by any board within the department, except as provided. The bill would require an applicant for a temporary license to provide to the board documentation that the applicant has passed a California law and ethics examination if otherwise required by the board for the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks licensure. The bill would require a board to issue a temporary license within 30 days of receiving the required documentation if the results of a criminal background check do not show grounds for denial and would require a board to request the Department of Justice to conduct the criminal background check and to furnish the criminal background information in accordance with specified requirements. The bill would specifically direct revenues from fees for temporary licenses issued by the California Board of Accountancy to be credited to the Accountancy Fund, a continuously appropriated fund. The bill would require, if necessary to implement the bill's provisions, a board to submit to the department for approval draft regulations necessary to administer these provisions. The bill would exempt from these provisions a board that has a process in place by which an out-of-state licensed applicant in good standing who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States is able to receive expedited, temporary authorization to practice while meeting state-specific requirements for a period of at least one year or is able to receive an expedited license by endorsement with no additional requirements superseding those for a temporary license, as described above. The bill would make conforming changes. By expanding the scope of the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill's expansion of the

requirement to issue temporary licenses would result in revenues from fees for certain licenses being deposited into continuously appropriated funds. By establishing a new source of revenue for those continuously appropriated funds, the bill would make an appropriation.

Existing law provides that these temporary licenses shall expire 12 months after issuance, upon issuance of an expedited license, or upon denial of the application for expedited licensure by the board, whichever occurs first. Existing law authorizes the immediate termination of a temporary license upon a finding that the temporary licenseholder failed to meet the requirements for temporary licensure or provided substantively inaccurate information that would affect the person's eligibility for temporary licensure.

This bill, on and after July 1, 2023, would instead provide that these temporary licenses are nonrenewable and shall expire 12 months after issuance, upon issuance or denial of a standard license, upon issuance or denial of a license by endorsement, or upon issuance or denial of an expedited license, whichever occurs first. The bill, on and after July 1, 2023, would also require the board to revoke a temporary license if the board finds that the temporary licenseholder engaged in unprofessional conduct or any other act that is cause for discipline by the board.

This bill would require the Department of Consumer Affairs to compile an annual report to the Legislature containing specified information relating to the professional licensure of veterans, servicemembers, and their spouses. The bill would also require the Department of Consumer Affairs and each board within the department to post specified information on their internet websites relating to licensure for military spouses, the availability of temporary licenses, and permanent licensure by endorsement or credential for out-of-state applicants. The bill would also require the Department of Real Estate to compile specified information on military, veteran, and spouse licensure into an annual report for the Legislature.

Existing law, the Psychology Licensing Law, provides for the licensure and regulation of psychologists by the Board of Psychology. Existing law authorizes a psychologist certified or licensed in another state or Canadian province who has applied to the board for licensure to provide activities and services of a psychological nature without a valid license for a period not to exceed 180 days from the time of submitting their application or from the commencement of residency in the state, whichever occurs first, subject to specified conditions and requirements.

This bill would also authorize a psychologist certified or licensed in another state or Canadian province who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has applied to the board for licensure to perform activities and services of a psychological nature without a valid license for a period not to exceed 12 months.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 2946 of the Business and Professions Code proposed by SB 801 to be operative only if this bill and SB 801 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

Vote: majority Appropriation: yes Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 115.6 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

115.6. (a) A board within the department shall, after appropriate investigation, issue the following eligible temporary licenses to an applicant if the applicant meets the requirements set forth in subdivision (c):

- (1) Registered nurse license by the Board of Registered Nursing.
- (2) Vocational nurse license issued by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California.
- (3) Psychiatric technician license issued by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California.
- (4) Speech-language pathologist license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.
- (5) Audiologist license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board.
- (6) Veterinarian license issued by the Veterinary Medical Board.

(7) All licenses issued by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

(8) All licenses issued by the Medical Board of California.

(9) All licenses issued by the Podiatric Medical Board of California.

(b) The board may conduct an investigation of an applicant for purposes of denying or revoking a temporary license issued pursuant to this section. This investigation may include a criminal background check.

(c) An applicant seeking a temporary license pursuant to this section shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The applicant shall supply evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.

(2) The applicant shall hold a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board.

(3) The applicant shall submit an application to the board that shall include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for the temporary license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. The application shall also include written verification from the applicant's original licensing jurisdiction stating that the applicant's license is in good standing in that jurisdiction.

(4) The applicant shall not have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license under this code at the time the act was committed. A violation of this paragraph may be grounds for the denial or revocation of a temporary license issued by the board.

(5) The applicant shall not have been disciplined by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction and shall not be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding conducted by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction.

(6) The applicant shall, upon request by a board, furnish a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal background check.

(d) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section.

(e) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section may be immediately terminated upon a finding that the temporary licenseholder failed to meet any of the requirements described in subdivision (c) or provided substantively inaccurate information that would affect the person's eligibility for temporary licensure. Upon termination of the temporary license, the board shall issue a notice of termination that shall require the temporary licenseholder to immediately cease the practice of the licensed profession upon receipt.

(f) An applicant seeking a temporary license as a civil engineer, geotechnical engineer, structural engineer, land surveyor, professional geologist, professional geophysicist, certified engineering geologist, or certified hydrogeologist pursuant to this section shall successfully pass the appropriate California-specific examination or examinations required for licensure in those respective professions by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

(g) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section shall expire 12 months after issuance, upon issuance of an expedited license pursuant to Section 115.5, or upon denial of the application for expedited licensure by the board, whichever occurs first.

(h) This section shall remain in effect only until July 1, 2023, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 115.6 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

115.6. (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (j), a board within the department shall, after appropriate investigation, issue a temporary license to practice a profession or vocation to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in subdivisions (c) and (d).

(2) Revenues from fees for temporary licenses issued by the California Board of Accountancy shall be credited to the Accountancy Fund in accordance with Section 5132.

(b) The board may conduct an investigation of an applicant for purposes of denying or revoking a temporary license issued pursuant to this section. This investigation may include a criminal background check.

(c) An applicant seeking a temporary license pursuant to this section shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The applicant shall supply evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.

(2) The applicant shall hold a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation within the same scope for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board.

(3) The applicant shall submit an application to the board that shall include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for the temporary license, and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. The application shall also include written verification from the applicant's original licensing jurisdiction stating that the applicant's license is in good standing in that jurisdiction.

(4) The applicant shall not have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license under this code at the time the act was committed. A violation of this paragraph may be grounds for the denial or revocation of a temporary license issued by the board.

(5) The applicant shall not have been disciplined by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction and shall not be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding conducted by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction.

(6) (A) The applicant shall, upon request by a board, furnish a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal background check.

(B) The board shall request a fingerprint-based criminal history information check from the Department of Justice in accordance with subdivision (u) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code and the Department of Justice shall furnish state or federal criminal history information in accordance with subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

(d) The applicant shall pass a California law and ethics examination if otherwise required by the board for the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks licensure.

(e) Except as specified in subdivision (g), a board shall issue a temporary license pursuant to this section within 30 days of receiving documentation that the applicant has met the requirements specified in subdivisions (c) and (d) if the results of the criminal background check do not show grounds for denial.

(f) (1) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section may be immediately terminated upon a finding that the temporary licenseholder failed to meet any of the requirements described in subdivision (c) or (d) or provided substantively inaccurate information that would affect the person's eligibility for temporary licensure. Upon termination of the temporary license, the board shall issue a notice of termination that shall require the temporary licenseholder to immediately cease the practice of the licensed profession upon receipt.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, if, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, a board finds that a temporary licenseholder engaged in unprofessional conduct or any other act that is a cause for discipline by the board, the board shall revoke the temporary license.

(g) An applicant seeking a temporary license as a civil engineer, geotechnical engineer, structural engineer, land surveyor, professional geologist, professional geophysicist, certified engineering geologist, or certified hydrogeologist pursuant to this section shall successfully pass the appropriate California-specific examination or examinations required for licensure in those respective professions by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. The board shall issue a temporary license pursuant to this subdivision within 30 days of receiving documentation that the applicant has met the requirements specified in this subdivision and subdivisions (c) and (d) if the results of the criminal background check do not show grounds for denial.

(h) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section is nonrenewable and shall expire 12 months after issuance, upon issuance or denial of a standard license, upon issuance or denial of a license by endorsement, or upon issuance or denial of an expedited license pursuant to Section 115.5, whichever occurs first.

(i) A board shall submit to the department for approval, if necessary to implement this section, draft regulations necessary to administer this section. These regulations shall be adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(j) (1) This section shall not apply to a board that has a process in place by which an out-of-state licensed applicant in good standing who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States is able to receive expedited, temporary authorization to practice while meeting state-specific requirements for a

period of at least one year or is able to receive an expedited license by endorsement with no additional requirements superseding those described in subdivisions (c) and (d).

(2) This section shall apply only to the extent that it does not amend an initiative or violate constitutional requirements.

(k) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2023.

SEC. 3. Section 115.8 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

115.8. The Department of Consumer Affairs shall compile information on military, veteran, and spouse licensure into an annual report for the Legislature, which shall be submitted in conformance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. The report shall include all of the following:

(a) The number of applications for a temporary license submitted by active duty servicemembers, veterans, or military spouses per calendar year, pursuant to Section 115.6.

(b) The number of applications for expedited licenses submitted by veterans and active duty spouses pursuant to Sections 115.4 and 115.5.

(c) The number of licenses issued and denied per calendar year pursuant to Sections 115.4, 115.5, and 115.6.

(d) The number of licenses issued pursuant to Section 115.6 that were suspended or revoked per calendar year.

(e) The number of applications for waived renewal fees received and granted pursuant to Section 114.3 per calendar year.

(f) The average length of time between application and issuance of licenses pursuant to Sections 115.4, 115.5, and 115.6 per board and occupation.

SEC. 4. Section 115.9 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

115.9. The department and each board within the department shall publish information pertinent to all licensing options available to military spouses on the home page of the internet website of the department or board, as applicable, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) The process for expediting applications for military spouses.

(b) The availability of temporary licensure, the requirements for obtaining a temporary license, and length of time a temporary license is active.

(c) The requirements for full, permanent licensure by endorsement or credential for out-of-state applicants.

SEC. 5. Section 2946 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2946. (a) The board shall grant a license to any person who passes the board's supplemental licensing examination and, at the time of application, has been licensed for at least five years by a psychology licensing authority in another state or Canadian province if the requirements for obtaining a certificate or license in that state or province were substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter.

(b) A psychologist certified or licensed in another state or province and who has made application to the board for a license in this state may perform activities and services of a psychological nature without a valid license for a period not to exceed 180 calendar days from the time of submitting their application or from the commencement of residency in this state, whichever first occurs.

(c) A psychologist certified or licensed in another state or province who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has made application to the board for a license in this state may perform activities and services of a psychological nature without a valid license for a period not to exceed twelve months from the time of submitting their application or from the commencement of residency in this state, whichever first occurs.

(d) The board at its discretion may waive the examinations when in the judgment of the board the applicant has already demonstrated competence in areas covered by the examinations. The board at its discretion may waive the examinations for diplomates of the American Board of Professional Psychology.

SEC. 5.5. Section 2946 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2946. (a) The board shall grant a license to any person who passes the board's supplemental licensing examination and, at the time of application, has been licensed for at least two years by a psychology licensing authority in another state or territory of the United States or Canadian province if the requirements for obtaining a certificate or license to practice psychology in that state, territory, or province were substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter.

(b) A psychologist certified or licensed in another state, territory, or province who has applied to the board for a license in this state may perform activities and services of a psychological nature without a valid California license for a period not to exceed 180 calendar days from the time of submitting their application or from the commencement of residency in this state, whichever first occurs.

(c) A psychologist certified or licensed in another state or province who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has made application to the board for a license in this state may perform activities and services of a psychological nature without a valid license for a period not to exceed twelve months from the time of submitting their application or from the commencement of residency in this state, whichever first occurs.

(d) The board at its discretion may waive the examinations when in the judgment of the board the applicant has already demonstrated competence in areas covered by the examinations. The board at its discretion may waive the examinations for diplomates of the American Board of Professional Psychology. An applicant shall take and pass the required examinations unless waived by the board pursuant to this section.

SEC. 6. Section 5132 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

5132. (a) All moneys received by the board under this chapter from any source and for any purpose and from a temporary license issued under Section 115.6 shall be accounted for and reported monthly by the board to the Controller and at the same time the moneys shall be remitted to the State Treasury to the credit of the Accountancy Fund.

(b) The secretary-treasurer of the board shall, from time to time, but not less than once each fiscal year, prepare or have prepared on their behalf, a financial report of the Accountancy Fund that contains information that the board determines is necessary for the purposes for which the board was established.

(c) The report of the Accountancy Fund, which shall be published pursuant to Section 5008, shall include the revenues and the related costs from examination, initial licensing, license renewal, citation and fine authority, and cost recovery from enforcement actions and case settlements.

SEC. 7. Section 10151.3 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

10151.3. (a) The Department of Real Estate shall compile information on military, veteran, and spouse licensure into an annual report for the Legislature, which shall be submitted in conformance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. The report shall include all of the following:

(1) The number of applications for expedited licenses submitted by veterans and active duty spouses pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d) of Section 10151.2.

(2) The number of licenses issued and denied per calendar year pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d) of Section 10151.2.

(3) The average length of time between application and issuance of licenses pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d) of Section 10151.2 per license type.

(b) This section shall become operative only if Section 10151.2, as proposed to be added by Senate Bill 800 of the 2021–22 Regular Session, is enacted and takes effect.

SEC. 8. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

SEC. 9. Section 5.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 2946 of the Business and Professions Code proposed by both this bill and Senate Bill 801. That section shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2022, (2) each bill amends Section 294 of the Business and Professions Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Senate Bill 801, in which case Section 5 of this bill shall not become operative.