

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
AT CHARLESTON
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 4-13**

By the Governor

WHEREAS, the State of West Virginia recognizes the enormous sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and their families in service of this State and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, in admiration and deference to this voluntary sacrifice and service, our State and its citizens must endeavor to find new and innovative ways to improve the lives of our military families and support their personal and professional growth and their outstanding contributions to society; and

WHEREAS, military families are ten times more likely to move from one state to another than their civilian counterparts, and the frequency of relocation across state lines presents one of their greatest challenges; and

WHEREAS, thirty-five percent (35%) of military spouses work in professions that require state licenses or certifications, including teaching, nursing, real estate, child care, accounting and dental assisting; and

WHEREAS, each state determines the necessary standards to obtain professional licenses or certifications to ensure competency and protect the citizens of the states from harm; and

WHEREAS, the lack of licensing reciprocity and portability between the states, and the often duplicative nature of background checks, examinations, fees and other licensing requirements, can create an unfair barrier to a military spouse's successful pursuit of a career; and

WHEREAS, the State of West Virginia and the United States of America should always look for ways to implement best practices and provide smarter, more efficient government services; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the State of West Virginia that we consider implementation of policies and legislation that would reduce unnecessary licensing burdens on military spouses and improve the financial and personal well-being of military families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EARL RAY TOMBLIN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that:

1. The Governor's Commission on Military Spousal Licensure (the "Commission") is hereby created.
2. The members of the Commission shall consist of the following:
 - (a) The First Lady of the State of West Virginia, who shall serve as its chair;
 - (b) Two (2) representatives of the Office of the Governor; and
 - (c) The Adjutant General of West Virginia, or his designee.
3. The Governor shall also appoint seven citizen members, who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Governor and who may not designate individuals to serve in their place without the express consent of the Governor, as follows:
 - (a) Three citizen members shall be military spouses working in a profession that requires a license or certification under the laws of the State of West Virginia;

- (b) Four citizen members shall represent a profession, or the members of a profession, that requires a license or certification under the laws of the State of West Virginia.

4. The Governor at his discretion may appoint additional members to the Commission.

5. The Commission shall have the following duties:

- (a) Hold regular meetings in accordance with procedures adopted at its first meeting, which shall be scheduled by the chair;
- (b) Analyze the manner in which the laws and practices relating to professional licensing and licensing boards in the State of West Virginia affect military spouses moving into the State, and identify the various professions impacted;
- (c) Evaluate potential best practices the State could adopt to facilitate license portability for military spouses, including, but not limited to:
 - (i) License by Endorsement;
 - (ii) Temporary or Provisional Licensing; and
 - (iii) Expedited Application Processes; and
- (d) Propose and recommend legislation for the 2014 Regular Session of the State Legislature.

6. All members of the Commission shall serve without salary, although the citizen members of the Commission may seek reimbursement from the Office of the Governor for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred related to the official business of the Commission in carrying out the provisions of this Executive Order.

7. The Commission shall report its recommendations to the Governor by December 15, 2013.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the eleventh day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Thirteen, and in the One Hundred Fiftieth year of the State.

Earl Ray Tomblin

GOVERNOR

By the Governor

Wendell E. Everett
SECRETARY OF STATE