

Date: March 25, 2026

Bill number: NH SB656

Dear Chair Layon, Vice-Chair Slottje, and all distinguished members of the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill. My name is Kihwan Bae, and I am a research fellow at the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. The center is a non-partisan research group, and this comment is not submitted on behalf of any party or interest groups.

My studies examine a broad range of implications of occupational regulations. For example, I find that occupational licensing limits labor market activity among individuals who move across state lines, and that fast-track licensing programs are effective in mitigating this issue. In the context of military families, one of my studies shows that expedited licensing programs for military spouses increase employment and reduce the receipt of unemployment compensation following relocations across military bases in different states.

New Hampshire established expedited licensing programs for military spouses in 2014 and the Veterans License Acceleration Program (VLAP) in 2024. As an amendment to the VLAP, this bill would create a web-based occupational license application portal to facilitate new applications and the transfer of out-of-state licenses for veterans and military spouses.

By streamlining licensing transfers upon relocation, the bill is expected to reduce economic burdens on military families and increase the availability of licensed professionals in the Granite State. Importantly, the bill does not alter licensing qualifications, so there is little concern regarding public health and safety.

Taken together, research suggests that expedited licensing for military families is an effective way to alleviate the burdens faced by military families who sacrificed or are sacrificing for the nation, while posing minimal risk to public health and safety.

Sincerely,

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