

HCS HB 136 -- UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND COURTESY PROFESSIONAL LICENSES FOR CERTAIN MILITARY SPOUSES

This bill changes the laws regarding unemployment benefits for military spouses and courtesy professional licenses for nonresident military spouses.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

The bill specifies that a claimant seeking unemployment compensation is not disqualified for waiting week credit or benefits, regardless if the claimant has earned wages for insured work equal to 10 times the claimant's weekly benefit amount, if the claimant quit work in order to relocate with his or her spouse who is on active duty in the United States armed forces, the national guard, or other reserve. If a claimant is not disqualified as a result of this provision, no benefits based on wages paid for work prior to the quitting date can be chargeable to the claimant's former employer.

COURTESY PROFESSIONAL LICENSES FOR NONRESIDENT MILITARY SPOUSES

Any state agency or board that regulates an occupation or profession must establish criteria for the issuance of a temporary courtesy license to a nonresident spouse of an active duty member of the military who has been transferred to Missouri allowing the spouse to lawfully practice his or her occupation or profession in this state. The bill:

- (1) Requires an applicant for a courtesy license to hold a current license or certificate from another state, district, or United States territory whose licensing requirements are equivalent to those established by Missouri law for that occupation or profession;
- (2) Requires an applicant to have been engaged in the active practice of the occupation or profession for at least two of the five years immediately preceding the date of his or her application;
- (3) Specifies that an applicant cannot have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for the refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license or certificate under Missouri law at the time the act was committed;
- (4) Specifies that an applicant cannot have been disciplined by a licensing or credentialing entity in another jurisdiction or be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review, or disciplinary proceeding by a licensing or credentialing entity in another jurisdiction;

(5) Authorizes the appropriate board or agency to conduct and pay for a criminal background check;

(6) Requires an applicant to pay any required fees and comply with other requirements as provided by the appropriate board; and

(7) Specifies that a temporary courtesy license or certificate will be valid for 180 days and may be extended at the discretion of the applicable regulatory board or agency for another 180 days upon application of the holder.

These provisions will not apply to the practice of law or the regulation of attorneys.