Maryland State Legislative Approaches for Veterans

National Conference of State Legislatures Summit
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Veterans Legislation in Maryland

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Maryland House of Delegates

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Today's Discussion

1) How can we remove certain employment barriers for veterans transitioning from military service to the civilian workforce?

2) Can the occupational and professional licensing process be expedited for military spouses when moving to Maryland.
Occupational and Professional licenses in Maryland

- Certain licenses get full credit for military training, education and experience
- Licensing board must consider relevant military experience when calculating years of practice
- Board must give credit for “substantially” equivalent training and education provided by military
Additionally

Higher Education must develop and implement policies for awarding academic credit for relevant training
Higher Education Must:

• Reduce the time-to-degree for veterans
  – Reduces cost of earning a degree or certificate
  – Helps veterans acquire academic credentials needed to remain competitive in the civilian work force
Health Occupational Licenses

• Each health board must assign a liaison to a service member or veteran who applies
• The liaison assists the applicant through the process, reducing time to completion
• Upon completion, each board must expedite the processing of the application
Health Occupational Licenses

- In most cases, the application process will occur in less than 5 business days.
- If an application is denied, the health board must assist the applicant by identifying programs for relevant training.
Temporary Licenses for Spouses

• Available when a service member is reassigned to Maryland or

• When a military family relocates to Maryland within one year of active-duty discharge
In June of 2013, Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley signed into law new bills for veterans. First Lady Michelle Obama was in attendance.
State Agency Involvement

• Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
• Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation
• State Department of Education
• Institute for Emergency Medical Service Systems
• Higher Education Commission
Maryland Veteran’s Trust Fund

• Now a 501©(3) organization
• Can apply for large grants from Foundations such as Walmart, M&T Bank, Orioles/Ravens
• Part of Maryland Charity Campaign
• Federal Charity Campaign for federal employees
Maryland Veteran’s Trust Fund

Provides short term monetary assistant to veterans
Other Bills of Interest

• No-Interest Loan Program for all veteran business owners
• Notation of Veteran Status on driver’s license or identification cards
• Task Force on Military Service Members, Veterans and the Courts
Other Bills of Interest

• Sales and Use Tax exemption for Veterans Organizations
• Slot Machine revenue for veterans organizations
• Scholarships for veterans, family members & surviving spouse, etc.
Other Bills of Interest

• No fees for Medal of Honor Recipients for registration and driver’s license renewal
• Exemption from recreational fishing licenses for non-profits taking service-disabled veterans and their caregivers fishing in state waters
Other Bills of Interest

• POW’s and disabled veterans receive lifetime complimentary angler’s licenses, including some fish stamps

• In-state tuition rate for veterans resided or domiciled in Maryland
Veterans Dashboard of Maryland Services

• [www.mdva.state.md.us](http://www.mdva.state.md.us)

• The Veterans Dashboard contains links to services available from various Maryland departments and agencies
Maryland Loves Veterans!

Thanks for your attention

Questions?