

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2619

FISCAL
NOTE

BY DELEGATES LINVILLE, BUTLER, MCGEEHAN,
GRAVES, WAXMAN, HIGGINBOTHAM, HAMRICK,
WORRELL, HOWELL, WILSON AND MANDT

[Introduced January 24, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland
Security then Government Organization.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §21-14-3a; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated
3 §29-3B-4a; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated 29-3D-4a;
4 and to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §29-32-1, all relating
5 to allowing military veterans with certain military ratings to qualify for examination for
6 license as a plumber, allowing military veterans with certain military ratings to qualify for
7 examination for license as an electrician; allowing military veterans with certain military
8 ratings to qualify for examination for license as a sprinkler fitter in training or a journeyman
9 sprinkler fitter; directing state agencies to recognize the value of military job training and
10 directing boards to provide training to facilitate transition from military to civilian work for
11 certain veterans having acquired skills closely aligned with civilian job skills.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 21. LABOR.

ARTICLE 14. SUPERVISION OF PLUMBING WORK.

§21-14-3a. Veteran qualification for examination for license as a plumber.

1 Any person who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and
2 who has successfully completed the course of instruction required to qualify him or her for rating
3 as a plumber, utilities worker or other equivalent rating in his or her particular branch of the Armed
4 Forces, and whose service in the Armed Forces was under honorable conditions, may submit to
5 the West Virginia Commissioner of Labor a photostatic copy of the certificate issued to him or her
6 certifying successful completion of such course of instruction, a photostatic copy of his or her
7 discharge from the Armed Forces, an application for a certification as a plumber and the
8 prescribed license fee.

9 If the certificate and discharge, as evidenced by the photostatic copies thereof, the
10 application and prescribed license fee are in order, and if the veteran meets all of the requirements

11 of this article, the veteran shall be permitted to take the same examination or examinations as are
12 required under this article for applicants who do not apply for a license under the provisions of
13 this article: *Provided*, That the veteran may be required to attend additional training courses prior
14 to taking the examination if more than 30 years has passed from his or her successful completion
15 of the course of instruction and date of application. If the veteran passes the examination or
16 examinations, he or she shall be licensed as a plumber and shall thereafter be subject to all of
17 the provisions of this article. If the veteran does not pass the examination or examinations, any
18 provisions of this article relating to reexaminations shall apply to the veteran the same as they
19 apply to a person who does not apply for a license under the provisions of this article.

CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 3B. SUPERVISION OF ELECTRICIANS.

§29-3B-4a. Veteran qualification for examination for license as an electrician.

1 Any person who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and
2 who has successfully completed the course of instruction required to qualify him or her for rating
3 as an electrician, electrician's mate or other equivalent rating in his or her particular branch of the
4 Armed Forces, and whose service in the Armed Forces was under honorable conditions, may
5 submit to the West Virginia Commissioner of Labor, a photostatic copy of the certificate issued to
6 him or her certifying successful completion of such course of instruction, a photostatic copy of his
7 or her discharge from the Armed Forces, an application for a certification as an electrician and
8 the prescribed license fee.

9 If the certificate and discharge, as evidenced by the photostatic copies thereof, the
10 application and prescribed license fee are in order, and if the veteran meets all of the requirements
11 of this article, the veteran shall be permitted to take the same examination or examinations as are
12 required under this article for applicants who do not apply for a license under the provisions of
13 this article: *Provided*, That the veteran may be required to attend additional training courses prior

14 to taking the examination if more than 30 years has passed from his or her successful completion
15 of the course of instruction and date of application. If the veteran passes the examination or
16 examinations, he or she shall be licensed as an electrician and shall thereafter be subject to all
17 of the provisions of this article. If the veteran does not pass the examination or examinations, any
18 provisions of this article relating to reexaminations shall apply to the veteran the same as they
19 apply to a person who does not apply for a license under the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE 3D. SUPERVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION WORK.

§29-3D-4a. Veteran qualification for license as a journeyman sprinkler fitter or a sprinkler fitter in training.

1 Any person who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and
2 who has successfully completed the course of instruction required to qualify him or her for rating
3 as a fire protection officer or other equivalent rating in his or her particular branch of the Armed
4 Forces, which provided the veteran direct experience installing, adjusting, repairing and
5 dismantling fire protection systems, and whose service in the Armed Forces was under honorable
6 conditions, may submit to the West Virginia Commissioner of Labor, a photostatic copy of a
7 certificate issued to him or her certifying successful completion of such course of instruction and
8 documentation evidencing the number of hours of experience the veteran possesses, a
9 photostatic copy of his or her discharge from the Armed Forces, an application for a certification
10 as a journeyman sprinkler fitter or sprinkler fitter in training and the prescribed license fee.

11 If the documentation of the veteran's training, hours of experience and discharge, as
12 evidenced by the photostatic copies thereof, the application and prescribed license fee are in
13 order, and if the veteran meets all of the requirements of this article, the veteran shall be permitted
14 to take the same examination or examinations as are required under this article for applicants
15 who do not apply for a license under the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That the veteran may
16 be required to attend additional training courses prior to taking the examination if more than 30
17 years has passed from his or her successful completion of the course of instruction and date of

18 application. If the veteran passes the examination or examinations, he or she shall be licensed
19 as a sprinkler fitter in training or a journeyman sprinkler fitter and shall thereafter be subject to all
20 of the provisions of this article. If the veteran does not pass the examination or examinations, any
21 provisions of this article relating to reexaminations shall apply to the veteran the same as they
22 apply to a person who does not apply for a license under the provisions of this article.

**ARTICLE 32. RECOGNITION OF TRANSFERABLE JOB SKILLS OBTAINED IN
MILITARY TRAINING AS EVIDENCED BY EARNED CERTIFICATES.**

**§29-32-1. Agencies to provide training related to civilian nature of recognized military
training**

1 State agencies are directed to recognize the valuable job skills members of the United
2 States Armed Forces gain while earning certificates or other tangible forms of recognition of
3 completed military training that closely align with job skills in demand in the civilian sector.

4 To assist those veterans who possess generally recognized evidence of job training or
5 certificates that closely align with civilian job classifications, boards shall provide for updated
6 training for veterans to facilitate transition from military employment to employment in the private
7 sector with appropriate civilian licenses or certificates.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow honorably discharged veterans who possess certain military ratings to qualify to take an examination for licensing as a plumber, electrician, and sprinkler fitter. The bill also requires agencies to recognize the value of military job skills training and to provide training for certain veterans to facilitate transition from military employment to civilian jobs.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.