

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2967

By Delegates Cooper, Smith, Hillenbrand, Steele,
Longanacre, Ridenour, Sheedy, Butler, Honaker and
Crouse

[Introduced January 24, 2023; Referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland
Security then Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-1-23 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 providing for the expedited processing of professional or trade license applications for
3 service members, veterans, and their spouses, when the applicant is licensed and in good
4 standing in another jurisdiction.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATE BOARDS OF
EXAMINATION OR REGISTRATION REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER.**

§30-1-23. Waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; definitions.

- 1 (a) As used in this section:
 - 2 (1) "Initial" means obtaining a license in West Virginia for the occupation sought for the first
3 time;
 - 4 (2) "Low-income individuals" means individuals in the local labor market as defined in §21-
5 1C-2 of this code whose household adjusted gross income is below 130 percent of the federal
6 poverty line. This term also includes any person enrolled in a state or federal public assistance
7 program including, but not limited to, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program,
8 Medicaid, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and
 - 9 (3) "Military families" means any person who serves as an active member of the armed
10 forces of the United States, the National Guard, or a reserve component as described in 38 U.S.C.
11 §101, honorably discharged veterans of those forces, and their spouses. This term also includes
12 surviving spouses of deceased service members who have not remarried.
- 13 (b) Each board or licensing authority referred to in this chapter shall waive all initial
14 occupational licensing fees for the following classes of individuals:
 - 15 (1) Low-income individuals; and
 - 16 (2) Military families.

17 (c) Individuals seeking a waiver of initial occupational licensing fees must apply to the
18 appropriate board or licensing authority in a format prescribed by the board or licensing authority.
19 The board or licensing authority shall process the application within 30 days of receiving it from the
20 applicant.

21 (d) The board or licensing authority shall propose rules for legislative approval in
22 accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement the provisions of this section.

23 (e) There shall be an expedited processing of professional or trade license applications for
24 service members, veterans, and their spouses, when the applicant is licensed and in good
25 standing in another jurisdiction.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for the expedited processing of professional or trade license applications for service members, veterans, and their spouses, when the applicant is licensed, in good standing, in another jurisdiction.

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