



[HB24-1097 Military Family Occupational Credentialing](#) | Rep. Rick Taggart (R), Rep. Mike Weissman (D), Sen. Rhonda Fields (D), Sen. Bob Gardner (R)

Summary: This is a bipartisan bill that makes changes to Colorado’s occupational portability program concerning the spouses and dependents of military members to allow them to either more easily obtain or keep their credentialing. Changes include: (1) streamlining a spouse or dependent’s transfer of occupations licensure or credentials in Colorado if they are in good standing in another state, (2) allowing applicants to be credentialed if the applicant committed an act that would have disallowed them from licensure in Colorado, but the applicant remains in good standing in their current state, (3) allowing military spouses and dependent to obtain a 6-year credential while in Colorado, (4) waiving application and renewal fees for credentials, and (5) expanding eligibility for the program to spouses and dependents of Armed Forces Reserve, Ready Reserve, and National Guard members in Colorado.

Committee Hearing: Thursday, February 15, 2024 @ upon adjournment

Location: State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs, LSB A

Chair: Steven Woodrow

Position: Support

Testimony:

- Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and fellow committee members.
- My name is Drea Modugno, and I am here on behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce which represents over 1,000 businesses in the Denver Metro Area.
- We strongly support legislation that empowers our workforce and increases contributions to local economic development.
- As we have heard today, this piece of legislation streamlines processes that enables military families to more easily relocate and work in Colorado.
- According to the Department of Defense, 1 in 4 military spouses are unemployed or actively seeking work. The DOD has identified family support and satisfaction as a key driver of service member retention and has prioritized licensure portability.
- In addition to this, the Air Force ranks states on their family support; Colorado got an overall green rating for recent licensure portability efforts, but noted barriers remain due to exclusion of various occupations from our existing portability statute.
- This bill helps fill that gap.
- By enabling military spouses and dependents to more easily obtain or keep their credentials during a move, we hope to provide a strong message that Colorado values military families and is committed to making them feel welcome and supported.
- This is increasingly important on the heels of the current administration’s decision to keep space command in Colorado Springs.
- We appreciate the opportunity to support this legislation today and provide additional support and encourage growth opportunities within the military community. Thank you.