

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 228

Introduced by Crawford, 45.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the process by which military spouses and veterans obtain occupational licenses and determine what policy changes, if any, the State of Nebraska should implement to streamline occupational licensing for military spouses who are transferring licenses across state lines, and for service members leaving the military who seek to transfer their military training and skills to civilian occupations.

Veterans, especially veterans who have served since September 11, 2001, have unemployment rates higher than the state and national average. This is despite the fact that service members have extensive military training and experience to offer as potential employees. Studies by the Department of Defense suggest that as many as thirty-five percent of military spouses hold jobs that require occupational licenses or certification. In one survey, nearly forty percent of active duty military spouses indicated that streamlined state-to-state licensure portability would have helped them in their latest move. This study will include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The history of occupational licensure for military spouses and veterans in Nebraska;

(2) Licensing portability and reciprocity for service members and spouses holding Emergency Medical Technician/Emergency Medical Services

(EMT/EMS), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), and Physician's Assistant (PA) licenses;

(3) Any barriers to licensing portability and reciprocity for service members and military spouses that are specific to Nebraska or specific to these populations; and

(4) Best practices in other states regarding licensing portability and reciprocity for service members and military spouses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.