

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2013
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 705

Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield

February 21, 2013

An act to amend Section 2736.5 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 705, as amended, Blumenfield. Combat to Care Act.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various healing arts professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law requires boards within the department to adopt rules and regulations to provide for methods of evaluating education, training, and experience obtained in the armed services, if applicable to the requirements of the business, occupation, or profession regulated, and to specify how this education, training, and experience may be used to meet the licensure requirements for the particular business, occupation, or profession regulated. Existing law, the Nursing Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of registered nurses by the Board of Registered Nursing.

Existing law requires applicants for licensure as a registered nurse to meet certain educational requirements, to have completed specified courses of instruction, and to not be subject to denial of licensure under specified circumstances. Existing law authorizes applicants who have served on active duty in the medical corps in the United States Armed Forces to submit a record of specified training to the board for evaluation

in order to satisfy the courses of instruction requirement. Under existing law, if the applicant satisfies the other general licensure requirements and if the board determines that his or her education establishes competency to practice registered nursing, the applicant shall be granted a license upon passing a certain examination.

This bill would provide that this act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Combat to Care Act and would make various legislative findings and declarations, including that California recognizes that military service members gain skill and experience while serving the country that, upon discharge, can be translated to the civilian world. The bill would require the Board of Registered Nursing to adopt regulations that identify the Armed Forces ~~coursework~~ *education*, training, and experience that is equivalent or transferable to coursework required for licensure by the board. This bill would require the board, after evaluating a military applicant’s ~~education and training~~ *education, training, and experience*, to provide the applicant with a list of the coursework he or she must still complete to be eligible for licensure.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- 2 Combat to Care Act.
- 3 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- 4 (a) President Barack Obama signed the Veteran Skills to Jobs
- 5 Act, authored by former California State Senator Jeff Denham,
- 6 which directs federal licensing authorities to consider and accept
- 7 military experience and training for the purposes of satisfying the
- 8 requirements for licensure.
- 9 (b) In signing the Veterans Skills to Jobs Act, President Obama
- 10 declared that “No veteran who fought for our nation overseas
- 11 should have to fight for a job when they return home.”
- 12 (c) The Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse
- 13 University found that, since 2001, more than 2.8 million military
- 14 personnel have made the transition from military to civilian life
- 15 and another one million service members will make this transition
- 16 over the next five years.

1 (d) California is home to the largest veteran population in the
2 country, with approximately 2 million veterans, and is expected
3 to welcome home 30,000 more annually.

4 (e) California recognizes that military service members gain
5 skills and experience while serving our country that, upon
6 discharge, can be translated to the civilian world.

7 (f) Last year the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 2659
8 (Ch. 406, Stats. 2012) to help veterans with military commercial
9 motor vehicle driving experience transfer those skills into civilian
10 life. This act is part of California’s ongoing effort to streamline
11 veterans into viable careers after military service.

12 SEC. 3. Section 2736.5 of the Business and Professions Code
13 is amended to read:

14 2736.5. (a) Any person who has served on active duty in the
15 medical corps of any of the Armed Forces of the United States and
16 who has successfully completed the course of ~~instruction~~ *education,*
17 *training, and experience* required to qualify him or her for rating
18 as a medical service technician—~~independent duty~~, or other
19 equivalent rating in his or her particular branch of the Armed
20 Forces, and whose service in the Armed Forces has been under
21 honorable conditions, may submit the record of that ~~training~~
22 *education, training, and experience* to the board for ~~evaluation.~~
23 *evaluation towards licensure.*

24 (b) After making an evaluation pursuant to ~~subdivisions~~
25 *subdivision (a) and (d)*, the board shall provide an applicant with
26 a list of coursework, if any, that the applicant must complete to be
27 eligible for licensure.

28 (c) If an applicant meets the qualifications of subdivision (a)
29 and paragraphs (1) and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 2736, and
30 if the board determines that his or her education, *training, and*
31 *experience* would give reasonable assurance of competence to
32 practice as a registered nurse in this state, he or she shall be granted
33 a license upon passing the standard examination for licensure.

34 (d) The board shall, by regulation, establish criteria for
35 evaluating the ~~education~~ *education, training, and experience* of
36 applicants under this section.

37 (e) On or before January 1, 2015, the board shall, by regulation,
38 identify the Armed Forces ~~coursework~~ *education, training, and*
39 *experience* that is equivalent or transferable to coursework required
40 for licensure by the board.

1 (f) The board shall maintain records of the following categories
2 of applicants under this section:

3 (1) Applicants who are rejected for examination and the areas
4 of those applicants' preparation that are the causes of rejection.

5 (2) Applicants who are qualified by their ~~military education~~
6 *education, training, and experience* alone to take the examination,
7 and the results of their examinations.

8 (3) Applicants who are qualified to take the examination by
9 their military education, *training, and experience* plus
10 supplementary education, and the results of their examinations.

11 (g) The board shall attempt to contact by mail or other means
12 individuals meeting the requirements of subdivision (a) who have
13 been or will be discharged or separated from the Armed Forces of
14 the United States, in order to inform them of the application
15 procedure provided by this section. The board may enter into an
16 agreement with the federal government in order to secure the names
17 and addresses of those individuals.