



January 12, 2015

**TO: Governor Terry E. Branstad
Members of the 86th Iowa General Assembly**

RE: Implementation of the provisions of 2014 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1116

The Board of Medicine, which licenses medical and osteopathic physicians and surgeons and acupuncturists, has established rules to implement the licensing provisions of 2014 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1116, Section 34. As required by 2014 Iowa Acts Chapter 1116, Section 35, the Board respectfully provides the following description of the substance of these rules and procedures:

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 147.76 and 272C.2, the Board on December 5, 2014, voted to adopt and file a new Chapter 18, "Military Service and Veteran Reciprocity," 653 Iowa Administrative Code. The adopted rules (ARC 1804C) were published December 24, 2014, in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin and will become effective January 28, 2015.

The rules define "veteran" and "military service" consistent with state law and set forth procedures to recognize an applicant's military education, training and service that can be applied toward any experience or educational requirement for licensure in Iowa.

The rules require the Board to promptly issue a license if the military service applicant already holds a license in another jurisdiction and that jurisdiction's licensure requirements are substantially equivalent to those required in Iowa.

The rules provide that a provisional license can be issued to a military service applicant who is licensed in another jurisdiction in which licensure requirements are not substantially equivalent to those required in Iowa. The provisional license will allow the applicant to establish an Iowa practice while completing additional experience or education needed for licensure in Iowa.

To complement the new rules, the Board has revised application forms and internal processes to expedite the licensure of military service applicants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Bowden".

Mark E. Bowden, MPA
Executive Director

enclosure: 653 IAC Chapter 18

**653 IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 18
MILITARY SERVICE AND VETERAN RECIPROCITY**

653—18.1(85GA,ch1116) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

“*License*” means a license issued by the board, including a permanent medical license, resident physician license, special physician license, temporary physician license or licensed acupuncturist license.

“*Military service*” means honorably serving on federal active duty, state active duty, or national guard duty, as defined in Iowa Code section 29A.1; in the military services of other states, as provided in 10 U.S.C. Section 101(c); or in the organized reserves of the United States, as provided in 10 U.S.C. Section 10101.

“*Military service applicant*” means an individual who is requesting credit toward licensure that is subject to the jurisdiction of the board for military education, training, or service obtained or completed in military service including, but not limited to, a medical physician or surgeon, osteopathic physician or surgeon, or licensed acupuncturist.

“*Provisional license*” means a license that is issued by the board to a veteran who is licensed in another jurisdiction in which licensure requirements are not substantially equivalent to those required in Iowa and that will allow the veteran an opportunity to obtain additional experience or education required for licensure in Iowa. A provisional license may be issued for a specified period of time upon such conditions as the board deems reasonably necessary to protect the health, welfare or safety of the public.

“*Veteran*” means an individual who meets the definition of “veteran” in Iowa Code section 35.1(2).

653—18.2(85GA,ch1116) Military education, training, and service credit. A military service applicant may apply for credit for verified military education, training, or service toward any experience or educational requirement for licensure by submitting a military service application form to the board office.

18.2(1) The completed military service application may be submitted with an application for licensure or examination or prior to an applicant’s applying for licensure or to take an examination. No fee is required with submission of an application for military service credit.

18.2(2) The applicant shall identify the experience or educational licensure requirement to which the credit would be applied if granted. Credit shall not be applied to an examination requirement.

18.2(3) The applicant shall provide documents, military transcripts, a certified affidavit, or forms that verify completion of the relevant military education, training, or service, which may include, when applicable, the applicant’s Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) or Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) (DD Form 2586).

18.2(4) The applicant shall fully comply with all other requirements necessary for licensure in Iowa pursuant to 653—Chapter 9.

18.2(5) Upon receipt of a completed military service application, the board shall promptly determine whether the verified military education, training, or service will satisfy all or any part of the identified experience or educational qualifications for licensure.

18.2(6) The board shall grant the application in whole or in part if the board determines that the verified military education, training, or service satisfies all or part of the experience or educational qualifications for licensure.

18.2(7) The board shall inform the military service applicant in writing of the credit, if any, given toward an experience or educational qualification for licensure or explain why no credit was granted. The applicant may request reconsideration upon submission of additional documentation or information.

18.2(8) A military service applicant who is aggrieved by the board’s decision may request a contested case (administrative hearing) and may participate in a contested case by telephone. A request for a contested case shall be made within 30 days of issuance of the board’s decision. There shall be no fees or costs assessed against the military service applicant in connection with a contested case conducted pursuant to this subrule.

18.2(9) The board shall grant or deny the military service application prior to ruling on the application for licensure. The applicant shall not be required to submit any fees in connection with the licensure application unless the board grants the military service application. If the board does not grant the military service application, the applicant may withdraw the licensure application or request that the application be placed on pending status. The withdrawal of a licensure application shall not preclude subsequent applications supported by additional documentation or information.

653—18.3(85GA,ch1116) Veteran reciprocity.

18.3(1) A veteran with an unrestricted professional license in another jurisdiction may apply for licensure in Iowa through reciprocity. A veteran must pass any examinations required for licensure to be eligible for licensure through reciprocity. A fully completed application for licensure submitted by a veteran under this subrule shall be given priority and shall be expedited.

18.3(2) An application for licensure by reciprocity shall contain all of the information required of all applicants for licensure who hold unrestricted licenses in other jurisdictions and who are applying for licensure by reciprocity, including but not limited to completion of all required forms, payment of applicable fees, disclosure of criminal or disciplinary history, and, if applicable, a criminal history background check. In addition, the applicant shall provide such documentation as is reasonably needed to verify the applicant's status as a veteran under Iowa Code section 35.1(2).

18.3(3) Upon receipt of a fully completed licensure application, the board shall promptly determine if the professional or occupational licensing requirements of the jurisdiction where the veteran is licensed are substantially equivalent to the licensing requirements in Iowa. The board may consider the following factors in determining substantial equivalence: scope of practice, education and coursework, degree requirements, and postgraduate experiences.

18.3(4) The board shall promptly grant a license to the veteran if the veteran is licensed in the same or similar profession in another jurisdiction whose licensure requirements are substantially equivalent to those required in Iowa, unless the applicant is ineligible for licensure based on other grounds, for example, the applicant's disciplinary or malpractice history or criminal background.

18.3(5) If the board determines that the licensing requirements in the jurisdiction in which the veteran is licensed are not substantially equivalent to those required in Iowa, the board shall promptly inform the veteran of the additional experience, education, or examinations required for licensure in Iowa. Unless the applicant is ineligible for licensure based on other grounds, such as disciplinary or malpractice history or criminal background, the following shall apply:

a. If a veteran has not passed the required examination(s) for licensure, the veteran may request that the application be placed in pending status.

b. If additional experience or education is required in order for the applicant's qualifications to be considered substantially equivalent, the applicant may request that the board issue a provisional license for a specified period of time during which the applicant will successfully complete the necessary experience or education. The board shall issue a provisional license for a specified period of time upon such conditions as the board deems reasonably necessary to protect the health, welfare or safety of the public, unless the board determines that the deficiency is of a character that the public health, welfare or safety will be adversely affected if a provisional license is granted.

c. If a request for a provisional license is denied, the board shall issue an order fully explaining the decision and shall inform the applicant of the steps the applicant may take in order to receive a provisional license.

d. If a provisional license is issued, the application for full licensure shall be placed in pending status until the necessary experience or education has been successfully completed or the provisional license expires, whichever occurs first. The board may extend a provisional license on a case-by-case basis for good cause.

18.3(6) A veteran who is aggrieved by the board's decision to deny an application for a reciprocal license or a provisional license or is aggrieved by the terms under which a provisional license will be granted may request a contested case (administrative hearing) and may participate in a contested case by telephone. A request for a contested case shall be made within 30 days of issuance of the board's decision. There shall be no fees or costs assessed against the veteran in connection with a contested case conducted pursuant to this subrule.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 147, 148, 148E, and 272C and 2014 Iowa Acts, chapter 1116, division VI.