

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 851

Introduced by Assembly Member Logue

February 21, 2013

An act to add Section 1625.6 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 851, as introduced, Logue. Dentistry: licensure and certification requirements: military experience.

Existing law establishes the Dental Board of California within the Department of Consumer Affairs and sets forth its powers and duties relating to the licensing, certification, and regulation of the dental profession.

This bill would require the board, upon the presentation of evidence by an applicant for licensure or certification, to accept education, training, and practical experience completed by an applicant in military service toward the qualifications and requirements to receive a license or certificate if that education, training, or experience is equivalent to the standards of the board. If a board accredits or otherwise approves schools offering educational course credit for meeting licensing and certification qualifications and requirements, the bill would, not later than July 1, 2014, require those schools seeking accreditation or approval to have procedures in place to evaluate an applicant's military education, training, and practical experience toward the completion of an educational program that would qualify a person to apply for licensure or certification, as specified.

Under existing law, the Department of Veterans Affairs has specified powers and duties relating to various programs serving veterans.

This bill would, require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide technical assistance to the board and to the director of consumer affairs with respect to complying with the bill’s requirements and obtaining specified funds to support compliance with these provisions.

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 Veterans Dental Care Workforce Act of 2012.

3 SEC. 2. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
4 following:

5 (1) Lack of dental care providers continues to be a significant
6 barrier to access to health care services in medically underserved
7 urban and rural areas of California.

8 (2) Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and the
9 California National Guard gain invaluable education, training, and
10 practical experience through their military service.

11 (3) According to the federal Department of Defense, as of June
12 2011, one million veterans were unemployed nationally and the
13 jobless rate for post-9/11 veterans was 13.3 percent, with young
14 male veterans 18 to 24 years of age experiencing an unemployment
15 rate of 21.9 percent.

16 (4) According to the federal Department of Defense, during the
17 2011 federal fiscal year, 16,777 service members who separated
18 from active duty listed California as their state of residence.

19 (5) It is critical, both to veterans seeking to transition to civilian
20 dental care professions and to patients living in underserved urban
21 and rural areas of California, that the Legislature ensure that veteran
22 applicants for licensure by the Dental Board of California are
23 expedited through the qualifications and requirements process.

24 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that the Dental
25 Board of California and schools offering educational course credit
26 for meeting licensing qualifications and requirements fully and
27 expeditiously recognize and provide credit for an applicant’s
28 military education, training, and practical experience.

29 SEC. 3. Section 1625.6 is added to the Business and Professions
30 Code, to read:

1 1625.6. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
2 Dental Board of California pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing
3 with Section 1600) of this division shall, upon the presentation of
4 satisfactory evidence by an applicant for licensure, accept the
5 education, training, and practical experience completed by the
6 applicant as a member of the United States Armed Forces or
7 Military Reserves of the United States, the national guard of any
8 state, the military reserves of any state, or the naval militia of any
9 state, toward the qualifications and requirements for licensure by
10 the board unless the board determines that the education, training,
11 or practical experience is not substantially equivalent to the
12 standards of the board.

13 (b) By July 1, 2014, if the board under Chapter 4 (commencing
14 with Section 1600) accredits or otherwise approves schools offering
15 educational course credit for meeting licensing qualifications and
16 requirements, the board shall require a school seeking accreditation
17 or approval to have procedures in place to fully accept an
18 applicant's military education, training, and practical experience
19 toward the completion of an educational program that would
20 qualify a person to apply for licensure.

21 (c) The board shall adopt regulations, if necessary, to implement
22 this section by July 1 2014. If the board determines that regulations
23 are not necessary to implement this section, it shall report to the
24 Legislature and Governor, no later than July 1, 2014, explaining
25 why the regulations are not necessary.

26 (d) With respect to complying with the requirements of this
27 section including the determination of equivalency between the
28 education, training, or practical experience of an applicant and the
29 board's standards, and obtaining state, federal, or private funds to
30 support compliance with this section, the Department of Veterans
31 Affairs shall provide technical assistance to the board and to the
32 director.

33 (e) No later than January 1, 2016, the director shall report to
34 the Legislature and the Governor on the progress of the board
35 toward compliance with this section.

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