

Credentialing Requirements After Active Military Service or Service by Civilians During Wartime

<i>Credential Renewal</i>	Credentialed professionals serving in the U.S. armed forces anywhere, at any time, or serving the country as civilians outside the United States during wartime are not required to submit a renewal application or pay the renewal fees they would otherwise be obligated to pay to renew their license, certification, or registration in order to practice their occupation (Minn. Stat. § 326.56).
<i>Eligibility</i>	<p>Those eligible for this exemption from normal credentialing requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• members of the U.S. armed forces, regardless of where stationed; and• civilians engaged in employment outside of the United States “essential to the prosecution of any war or to the national defense.” (Minn. Stat. § 326.56, subd. 1) This includes employees of the U.S. government, any of its agencies, or any contractor or subcontractor under the United States, engaged in work connected with the prosecution of war. <p>The license, registration, or certification must be effective at the time of entry into the armed forces or at the time of employment outside the United States.</p>
<i>Application</i>	This exemption applies to all occupations regulated by the executive branch of the state of Minnesota. This includes, for example, occupations regulated by health licensing boards or the Department of Commerce.
<i>Grace Period</i>	Those who are eligible are exempt from renewing their professional credential while they are on active duty or out of the United States, and for an additional six months after they are discharged from the armed forces or from when they return to the United States.
<i>Cancellation or Revocation</i>	If the eligible professional’s credential was cancelled or revoked either for nonpayment of the renewal fee or failure to apply for renewal, the credential must be restored without paying a fee when the professional or an agent of the professional applies.
<i>Continuing Education Requirements</i>	Different boards and agencies have different policies regarding continuing education credits. Some credentialing bodies waive the continuing education requirements that accrued during the eligible professional’s leave. Other bodies may extend the deadline to give eligible professionals extra time to make up the required continuing education requirements.

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