



OHIO STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

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June 30, 2014

Timothy C. Gorrell, Director
Department of Veteran's Services
Riffe Center, 77 S. High Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Director Gorrell:

The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy (OSBP) is pleased to report the Board's actions to meet the recommendations provided in the *Valuing Ohio Veterans, Executive Order 2013-05K Recommendations* Report, Ohio HB 98 (130th General Assembly) and Ohio HB 488 (130th General Assembly).

Recommendation 1. Adopt rules to evaluate military education, training and experience. *Action Item: All state departments, boards and commissions shall adopt rules to evaluate military education, training and experience and create a cross walk table that maps military occupations, training or experience to occupational licenses or certifications, and post the information on their website by June 30, 2014.*

- ✓ On May 22, 2014, OAC 4729-7-02 came into effect requiring the Board to consider relevant military education, training or service that has been completed by an Ohio Pharmacist when determining the fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.
- ✓ Board staff conducted a thorough review of mapping veterans' pathway to Pharmacist and pharmacy intern licensure. The documents were posted on the Board's dedicated veteran's web page (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/veterans) on June 26, 2014.

Recommendation 2. Adopt rules that strengthen and support current laws benefiting veterans and spouses. *Action Item: All state departments, boards and commissions shall adopt rules that strengthen and support current laws benefiting veterans, service members and spouses and post the information on their website by June 30, 2014.*

- ✓ The Board adopted a rule effective May 22, 2014 that would grant extension periods and waivers for the completion of license renewal and continuing education requirements for active duty veterans and their spouses. See [OAC 4729-7-02 \(G\)](#).
- ✓ The Board implemented a dedicated Veterans and Military Families web page on June 26, 2014 that includes the information related to availability of fee waivers, license renewal and continuing education time extensions.

Recommendation 3. Ensure GI Bill benefits eligibility. *Action Item: All state departments, boards and commissions shall apply for GI Bill eligibility for their license and certificate testing fees through the Veterans Educational Programs at the Department of Veteran Services by June 30, 2014.*

- ✓ On May 27, 2014, the Board received formal notification from the Ohio Department of Veterans Services that the following licensure and certification examinations are on the Department of Veterans Affairs qualified list of non-federal government licensure and certification examinations allowing eligible veterans and their dependents to be reimbursed for the cost of the following examinations:
 - North American Pharmacist License Exam (NAPLEX)
 - Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE)

Recommendation 4. Explore waiving or discounting licensure fees. *Action Item: All state departments, boards and commissions shall research the feasibility of offering license and certification fee discounts or waivers for individuals currently serving in the military and report findings and progress to the Department of Veterans Services by June 30, 2014.*

- ✓ HB 488 includes OSBP proposed language that permits the Board to waive licensing fees for veterans and their spouses. The Board has approved the following fee waivers:
 - The one-time Pharmacist reciprocity fee of \$337.50 for active duty veterans, the spouses of active duty veterans, and all honorably discharged veterans up to five years after discharge date.
 - The Pharmacist examination fee of \$110.00 for active duty veterans, the spouses of active duty veterans, and all honorably discharged veterans.
 - The Pharmacist renewal fee of \$97.50 for active duty veterans, the spouses of active duty veterans, and all honorably discharged veterans up to five years after discharge date.
 - The one-time intern application fee of \$22.50 for active duty veterans, the spouses of active duty veterans, and all honorably discharged veterans.
 - The intern renewal fee of \$22.50 for active duty veterans, the spouses of active duty veterans as well as all honorably discharged veterans.

Recommendation 5. Establish formal processes to expedite and prioritize licensing and certification for veterans and spouses. *Action Item: All state departments, boards and commissions shall establish formal processes to expedite and prioritize licensing and certification for veterans and spouses and report findings and progress to the Department of Veterans Services by June 30, 2014.*

- ✓ In June 2014, the Board implemented a new policy to expedite the processing of veteran and spouse applications within 48 hours, when applicable.
- ✓ In June 2014, Board staff revised all applications, so military trained personnel and/or their spouses can indicate their military status on the application to enable OSBP staff to prioritize the application for immediate processing upon receipt.

Recommendation 6. Standardize the definition of a veteran. *Action Item: All state departments, boards and commissions shall adopt the recommended definition of a veteran by June 30, 2014.*

- ✓ In June of 2014, the Board agreed to use the definition of "veteran" as defined in HB 488, as indicated on all application materials. OAC 4729-5-01 is being revised for the August 14, 2014 Rules Review Committee to include the definition.

Recommendation 7. Develop marketing and outreach information specifically targeted to veteran and spouses. *Action Item: All state departments, boards and commissions shall develop marketing and outreach information specifically targeted to veterans and spouses and distribute or post the information on their website by June 30, 2014.*

- ✓ On June 26, 2014, the Board established a dedicated web page for Veterans and Military Families on the Pharmacy Board web site (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/veterans) to assist veterans and their spouses in obtaining an Ohio license as a Pharmacist or pharmacy intern. The page provides information about licensure and renewal processes, continuing education and additional resources. Updated and new information is posted to the web page on an ongoing basis.
- ✓ In June 2014, the Board also developed a tri-fold brochure that provides an overview of the licensure process and benefits for veterans. The brochure will be printed and distributed to county veterans service offices and schools of pharmacy throughout Ohio.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this information. If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Cameron McNamee by phone, 614-466-7322, or email: cameron.mcnamee@bop.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,



Kyle W. Parker, M.B.A., R.Ph.,
Executive Director

cc: Robert Breekner
Michael Evans
Rachael Jones