



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

01 MAY 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2019-18 (Reimbursement for State Licensure and Certification Costs for the Spouse of a Soldier Arising From a Permanent Change of Station)

1. Reference National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Public Law No. 115-91, section 556, 131 Stat. 1403–1405.
2. This directive establishes policy for the authorized reimbursement for State licensure and certification costs for a spouse pursuant to the permanent change of station or permanent change of assignment of a Soldier sponsor to another State.
3. Supporting Army spouses in continuing their profession in a new place of residence is important. Spouses in professionally licensed fields face challenges resulting from delays and the cost of transferring licenses to a new State. By mitigating these barriers, we will improve the quality of life for our Soldiers and Families and ease the stress of transferring duty stations with consideration for long-term career implications. This policy sets forth requirements to support spouse relocation and employment.
4. This directive is effective retroactively to the date of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (12 December 2017) and applies to the Regular Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve.
5. The Army will reimburse a Soldier for qualified relicensing costs of the spouse when:
 - the Soldier is reassigned, either as a permanent change of station or permanent change of assignment, from a duty station in one State to a duty station in another State; and
 - the movement of the Soldier's dependents is authorized at the expense of the United States under this section as part of the reassignment.
 - a. Reimbursement provided to a Soldier may not exceed \$500 in connection with each reassignment.
 - b. The term "qualified relicensing costs" means costs, including examination and registration fees, that are imposed by the State of the new duty station to secure a license or certification to engage in the same profession the Soldier's spouse engaged

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in while in the State of the original duty station. These qualified relicensing costs are paid or incurred by the Soldier or spouse to secure the license or certification from the State of the new duty station after the date on which the orders directing the reassignment are issued.

6. Responsibilities for implementation of this policy follow.

a. The Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 will:

(1) publish an all Army activities message providing instructions for filing reimbursement through the permanent change of station process;

(2) ensure funding is available through the military pay and allowances account;
and

(3) coordinate with the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs to develop strategic communications and top-line messaging for Families and key stakeholders.

b. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Military Personnel/Quality of Life) will prepare a report to Congress on utilization rates no later than 31 October 2019.

7. The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) is the proponent for this policy. In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, no reimbursement may be provided under this policy for qualified relicensing costs paid or incurred after 31 December 2022.

8. This directive will be updated to continue the reimbursements unless Congress makes the legislation permanent.



Mark T. Esper

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