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RULE ADOPTIONS
LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

Adopted New Rule: N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.6

Credit Towards Licensure for Education, Training, and Experience Received While Serving as a Member of the Armed Forces

Proposed: October 20, 2014, at 46 N.J.R. 2097(a).

Adopted: February 10, 2015, by the State Board of Social Work Examiners, Dawn Apgar, Chair.

Filed: August 21, 2015, as R.2015 d.156, **without change**.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-11 and P.L. 2013, c. 49.

Effective Date: September 21, 2015.

Expiration Date: July 16, 2022.

Summary of Public Comment and Agency Response:

The official comment period ended December 19, 2014. In order to ensure compliance with P.L. 2013, c. 259, the comment period was extended through January 4, 2015. The Board received one comment from Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

COMMENT: The commenter supports the new rule.

RESPONSE: The Board thanks the commenter for her support.

Federal Standards Statement

A Federal standards analysis is not required because there are no Federal requirements or standards applicable to the adopted new rule.

Full text of the adopted new rule follows:

13:44G-4.6 Credit towards licensure or certification for education, training, and experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces

(a) An applicant who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States (Armed Forces) and who does not meet all of the training, education, and experience requirements for licensure or certification under N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 may apply to the Board for

recognition of the applicant's training, education, or experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces, which the Board shall consider, together with any training, education, and experience obtained outside of the Armed Forces, for determining substantial equivalence to the training, education, and experience required for licensure or certification.

(b) The Board shall issue a license or certificate to the applicant if the applicant presents evidence to the Board that:

1. The applicant has been honorably discharged from active military service;
2. The relevant training, education, and experience the applicant received in the Armed Forces, together with any training, education, and experience obtained outside of the Armed Forces, is substantially equivalent in scope and character to the training, education, and experience required for licensure or certification under N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.1, 4.2, or 4.3.
 - i. An applicant seeking credit for military training and experience shall submit to the Board the applicant's Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) Document, DD Form 2586.
 - ii. An applicant seeking credit for education courses and/or training completed while in the military shall submit to the Board a Joint Services Transcript of his or her education/training for a determination that the education courses and/or training completed are substantially equivalent in level, scope, and intent to the program required for licensure or certification under N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.1, 4.2, or 4.3. For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Board shall consider only those education courses and/or training relevant to the practice of social work that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education for substantial equivalence to civilian social work education; and
3. The applicant complies with all other requirements for licensure or certification, including successful completion of the applicable licensing examination.

(c) It is the applicant's responsibility to provide timely and complete evidence of the training, education, and experience gained in the military for review and consideration.

(d) If the applicant's military training, education, and experience, or a portion thereof, is not deemed to be substantially equivalent to that required for licensure or certification, the Board shall credit whatever portion of the military training, education, and experience that is substantially equivalent towards meeting the requirements under N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.1, 4.2, or 4.3 for the issuance of the license or certification.

(e) Satisfactory evidence of such training, education, and experience shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis.