

**TITLE 67**  
**STATE GOVERNMENT AND STATE AFFAIRS**  
**CHAPTER 94**  
**OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REFORM ACT**

**67-9406.** Licensure by endorsement — members of the military, veterans, and spouses. (1) A licensing authority shall establish a procedure to grant licensure by endorsement to a member of the military, a former member of the military after discharge under honorable conditions, a veteran, or a spouse of any such person, who possesses current, valid, and unrestricted licensure in another state, district, or territory of the United States, or in any branch of the armed forces or the **national guard**. Such procedure is intended to provide licensure by endorsement to qualifying persons within fifteen (15) business days after such person applies for licensure under this section, provided that the applicant is able to validate his qualifications pursuant to subsection (2) of this section within such time frame. Each licensing authority may promulgate applicable rules to implement the provisions of this subsection, if necessary.

(2) Each applicant for licensure by endorsement under this section must apply to the applicable licensing authority for relevant licensure to validate:

(a) The applicant's status as a member of the military, a former member of the military after discharge under honorable conditions, a veteran, or a spouse of any such person; and

(b) The applicant's current, valid, and unrestricted licensure in another state, district, or territory of the United States, or in any branch of the armed forces or the national guard.

(3) An applicant for licensure by endorsement pursuant to this section must disclose all current, pending, or subsequent disciplinary proceedings related to the applicant's licensure in another state, district, or territory of the United States, or in any branch of the armed forces or the national guard. **A licensing authority has discretion regarding whether to withhold, revoke, or place conditions on an applicant's licensure by endorsement related to such disciplinary proceeding and any information obtained by the licensing authority related to such proceedings.** An applicant's failure to disclose a current, pending, or future disciplinary proceeding pursuant to this subsection is grounds for a licensing authority to withhold, revoke, or place conditions on licensure by endorsement pursuant to this section.

(4) With respect to an applicant under this section, each licensing authority must implement a condensed military application form to verify the requirements of subsection (2) of this section. A condensed application may not request additional information unless such information is deemed critical by the applicable licensing authority to verify the applicant's qualification for an Idaho-specific aspect of practice or to determine the applicable scope of practice pursuant to subsection (5) of this

section. **As part of a condensed military application, a licensing authority may not require:**

- (a) The taking of all or a portion of an examination, even if such examination is required of other applicants for the same type of licensure in Idaho; or
- (b) The payment of an application fee.

(5) With respect to applicants for licensure by endorsement under this section, a licensing authority may, at its discretion, compare the authorized scope of practice in the applicable jurisdiction, or jurisdictions, where the applicant currently holds licensure to the authorized scope of practice in Idaho. If such licensing authority determines that the authorized scope of practice in Idaho is broader than the scope of practice authorized in the jurisdiction, or jurisdictions, where the applicant currently holds licensure, such licensing authority may issue a limited license to such applicant pending completion of the additional education, training, or any other requirements determined necessary by the licensing authority. A limited license issued under this section must restrict the applicant's practice in Idaho to the scope of practice authorized in the state where the applicant holds prior licensure until such time that the applicant satisfies the education, training, or other requirements deemed necessary by the licensing authority for a limited period of time necessary for an applicant to meet the qualifications for a full license. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4) of this section, a licensing authority may administer an examination or partial examination to an applicant pursuant to this subsection for the purpose of ascertaining whether an applicant possesses the requisite qualifications for a full license. Such examination must be narrowly tailored to the additional knowledge or skills required for the applicant to prove that he is qualified for a full license.

(6) This section does not restrict a person who is a member of a profession or occupation covered by an applicable interstate licensure compact or applicable reciprocity agreement from seeking licensure by endorsement pursuant to this section. In such a situation, a person may apply for licensure by endorsement under this section or may apply for licensure pursuant to the terms of the applicable licensure compact or reciprocity agreement.

(7) An applicant under this section is subject to the laws regulating the person's practice in Idaho and is subject to the applicable licensing authority's jurisdiction. For purposes of this section, the term "licensure" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other authorization to practice a profession or occupation.

History:

[(67-9406) 67-9306, added 2019, ch. 296, sec. 1, p. 879; am. 2021, ch. 176, sec. 1, p. 488; am. and redesign. 2021, ch. 321, sec. 42, p. 986.]

## CHAPLAIN HB 545

### COUNSELING EDUCATION COMPARISON - 3/8/2026

- The Dept. of Defense requires that all chaplains have a bachelor's and a Master of Divinity degree.
- The military provides significant additional counseling education.
- This chart summarizes only that counseling instruction unique to military service and does not count non-counseling credits earned as part of their Master of Divinity degree.
- Traditional route standards are from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the accrediting agency used by Idaho's Department of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

| TRADITIONAL ROUTE  | MILITARY CHAPLAIN ROUTE  |
|--|--|
| <b>Classroom Counseling Instruction</b>  |  |
| 51 credit hours  | 52 equivalent credit hours   |
| <b>Practicum and Internship</b>  |  |
| 9 credit hours<br>700 hours<br>40% direct client contact   | 15 equivalent credit hours<br>1200 hours<br>80% direct client contact              |
| <b>Total Counseling Education</b>  |  |
| 60 counseling credit hours   | 67 equivalent counseling credit hours  |
| <b>Examination</b>   |  |
| National Counselor's Exam (NCE)  | Numerous counseling exams administered by U.S. Military (including practical exam) |
| <i>Note: Idaho Code 67-9406(4)(a) exempts military members seeking civilian licensure from "the taking of all or a portion of an examination, even if such examination is required of other applicants for the same type of licensure in Idaho."</i> |  |
| <b>Supervised Counseling Hours</b>   |  |
| 1,000 for LPC<br>2,000 for LCPC  | 1,000 for LPC<br>2,000 for LCPC  |
| <b>Additional Work Experience</b>  |  |
|  | Deployment: 9-12 months (minimum) work experience as a counselor                   |

## CHART EXPLANATION

15 classroom hours = 1 credit hour in traditional colleges; the same ratio was used to calculate equivalent credit hours for military chaplains

### **Classroom counseling instruction** for military chaplains:

- Chaplain Leadership Course (a 3-month course, the counseling portion of which is equivalent to 3 credit hours)
- 400 instructional hours of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) where they learn counseling and behavioral health skills in clinical settings (equivalent to 27 credit hours)
- Elective counseling classes taken as part of the Master of Divinity (9 credit hours)
- A minimum of two years working as a military chaplain candidate (a.k.a. chaplain-in-training) where they are taught counseling techniques and spend time counseling soldiers under the supervision of a senior officer (equivalent to 13 credit hours)

### **Practicum and Internship:**

- Traditional counselors have a practicum and internship that total 9 credit hours. That includes 700 hours, 40% of which is spent with clients. Chaplains, through CPE, do 1200 hours, 80% of which is spent with clients. Using the same ratio of hours to credits, that's equivalent to 15 college credit hours. (*CACREP, the gold standard accrediting agency for counselors, requires the combined 700 hours for practicum + internship. Schools count those as 9 credits.*)
- CPE is elective for military chaplains but is required in this bill to have highly trained military chaplains eligible for licensure. [Bill page 1, line 37 and page 2, line 36]

### **Examination:**

- The website for the National Counselor Exam is <https://www.nbcc.org/exams/nce#nce>.
- Military chaplains take numerous exams during their military counseling education.
- A practical exam is administered where they are evaluated and assessed as they demonstrate their counseling skills.
- Idaho Code 67-9406(4)(a) exempts military members seeking civilian licensure for their military occupation from "the taking of all or a portion of an examination, even if such examination is required of other applicants for the same type of licensure in Idaho."

### **Supervised counseling hours:**

- This bill requires the same supervised counseling hours for military chaplains as are required in the traditional route to a counseling license. [Bill page 1, lines 38-41 and page 2, lines 38-41]
- 1,000 supervised hours for a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- 2,000 supervised hours for a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)

### **Additional work experience:**

- This bill also requires active-duty time served as a chaplain with honorable discharge. [Bill page 1, lines 34-36 and page 2, lines 32-35] This active-duty deployment (usually 6 to 12 months) provides chaplains with minimum 40-hour work weeks counseling military leadership, service members, and their families on a wide variety of issues in a very high-stress environment. This is invaluable work experience to add to the list of their qualifications.
- *Note on wording of the bill: a DD form 214 is issued after a period of active-duty service.*