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New Hampshire Pioneers Path to Electrician Licensure for Veterans and Service Members

CONCORD, N.H. (July 31st, 2023) – With the landmark passage of House Bill 2 (HB 2) in the 2023 legislative session of the New Hampshire General Court, New Hampshire has created a new unique path for Veterans and Service Members with certain military training and experience to obtain professional licensure as electricians.

Under new legislative language in HB 2, the NH Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) Electricians' Board now has the authority to grant credit to individuals who can demonstrate satisfactory completion of electrician training during military service for the purpose of issuing a license to a master or journeyman electrician applicant. Candidates for licensure must demonstrate completion of 8,000 hours of service as an apprentice electrician and are required to pass an OPLC examination.

While many states accept military experience for occupational licensing, New Hampshire is believed to be one of the first states to formally accept military training and experience alone for licensure as an electrician.

“House Bill 2 creates additional pathways for Veterans and Service Members to leverage skills and experience gained while serving in the Armed Forces,” said N.H. Adjutant Gen. David Mikolaities. “The employer, in turn, gains a mature, team-oriented worker with real-world experience. Legislation like this is a win-win for New Hampshire's military and the economic stability of our state. We look forward to supporting similar initiatives in the future.”

“OPLC’s mission is to create a regulatory environment that is protective of the public and favorable to workforce opportunities. With the changes in House Bill 2, OPLC will reduce unnecessary barriers to workforce for a critical field,” said Lindsey Courtney, Executive Director of the N.H. Office of Professional Licensure and Certification. “OPLC is thrilled to continue to partner with the N.H. Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services to develop unique and first-of-its kind pathways to licensure for qualified Veterans and Service Members.”

This legislation is the latest effort by the State of New Hampshire to reduce barriers to workforce participation and streamline New Hampshire’s professional licensing system, particularly so it is more useful to Veterans and Service Members transitioning into civilian employment. It expands New Hampshire’s military skills and test waiver offerings, which include Troops to Trucks for Commercial Driver Licensing and Medic to LNA for licensure as a Nursing Assistant. For more information about New Hampshire’s military skills and test waiver programs, contact Brent Fraser at Brenton.K.Fraser@DMAVS.nh.gov or (603) 227-1403.

Increasing the number of licensed electricians is critical to New Hampshire’s pursuit of more affordable housing and electric infrastructure. Electricians are among New Hampshire’s high demand occupations, with electrician employment projected to grow more than 11% by 2030, according to the NH Economic and Labor Market

Information Bureau.¹ Nationally, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the U.S. will need 80,000 new electricians every year over the coming decade.²

About New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensure and Certification

The Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) provides administrative support to over 50 professional Licensing Boards, Commissions and Councils responsible for licensing and regulating their professions within the State of New Hampshire. Through the NH Administrative Rules and Administrative Boards, the OPLC is able to fulfill its mission that ensures public safety and efficacy. To learn more about the NH Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, visit <https://www.oplc.nh.gov/>.

About New Hampshire Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services

The Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services was established legislatively in New Hampshire in 2019. The Department is led by Major General David Mikolaities, the NH Adjutant General and Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General. The Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services consolidated veterans services from across the state including the Division of Veterans Services, the Division of Community Based Military Programs and the State Veterans Cemetery. The Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services shares a mission triad with the New Hampshire National Guard—fight and win our nation’s wars, secure the homeland, and build enduring partnerships. To learn more about the NH Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, visit <https://www.dmavs.nh.gov/> .

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¹ <https://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/documents/2020-2030-longterm-projections.pdf>

² <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/electricians.htm#tab-6>