

New Hampshire Military Experience Waiver for Electrician Licensure

Messaging/FAQ

What happened?

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.

Why is this significant?

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.

[Research](#) has shown that Veterans bring valuable work experience as well as technical and nontechnical skills that are often in high demand, such as leadership, decision-making, dependability, and attention to detail. Most military occupations are not combat related and have direct equivalents in the civilian workforce; only 14% of the U.S. military's occupations are combat specialties, meaning a large number of veterans leave their service with skills that can transfer to civilian jobs if given the opportunity, according to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

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.

How did we get here?

This legislation was requested by Governor Chris Sununu as part of the budget trailer, House Bill 2, and was passed by the General Court.

What does this mean for Veterans?

If you are a Veteran of the U.S. armed forces and worked in an electrician capacity during your military service, you may now be able to earn credit toward professional licensure as an electrician in the state of New Hampshire.

What does this mean for employers?

This legislation will help to increase the number of professionally licensed electricians in New Hampshire while reducing employment barriers for Veterans and easing Service Members' transition into the civilian workforce. 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

Has this been done in other states?

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Is there evidence that military skills and test waivers are effective solutions to veteran un- and under-employment?

Many states are evaluating traditional methods/pathways to licensure. There is insufficient data at this point, however.

Is there a way to know how many Veterans and Service Members in New Hampshire could take advantage of this new legislation?

Currently, we do not have firm estimates on the number of Veterans who may be able to take advantage of this new path to electrician licensure.

In response to technical questions about the waiver:

Details on the implementation of this new waiver are still under development. The Electricians' Board will need to adopt rules, which could take time, but will also allow opportunities for stakeholder participation to identify and address questions about this new waiver.

Technical questions to anticipate:

- *What is the process for a Veteran to apply for this waiver?*
- *Is there a statute of limitations on how long ago the applicant's military training and experience could have taken place to be eligible?*
- *What specific military training or experience will applicants need to be eligible?*
- *What evidence will applicants need to provide?*
- *Is there a limit to how many hours an applicant can receive credit for prior military experience?*
- *Who has final authority to grant the waiver? Can applicants appeal decisions?*
- *Are there specific military occupations or military coursework that are eligible?*
- *Does the applicant receive a full or provisional license?*
- *How soon will veterans be able to apply for licensure and receive credit under the new legislation?*

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>