

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

**Resolution No. 338: Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses  
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education  
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, Veterans are in need of employment after exiting the military; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DOD) provides some of the best vocational training in the nation for its military personnel; and

WHEREAS, DOD establishes, measures and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, There are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that can easily translate to a civilian counterpart; and

WHEREAS, There are many occupations in the civilian workforce that require a license or certification; and

WHEREAS, In the Armed Forces, these unique occupations are performed to approved military standards that may meet or exceed the civilian license or certification criteria; and

WHEREAS, Upon separation, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, are not licensed or certified to perform the comparable job in the civilian workforce, thus hindering chances for immediate civilian employment and delaying career advancement; and

WHEREAS, This situation creates an artificial barrier to employment upon separation from military service; and

WHEREAS, A study by the Presidential Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance identified a total of 105 military professions where civilian credentialing is required; and

WHEREAS, DOD is obligated to keep such licenses and certifications current and cover the costs of renewal; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion support efforts to eliminate employment barriers that impede the timely and successful transfer of military job skills to the civilian labor market; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion support efforts to eliminate spouse employment barriers through advocacy for the recognition and acceptance of spouses credentials regardless of location, as long as the spouse meets standards set forth by the credentialing board; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That all federal and state stakeholders (i.e., Departments of Defense, Energy, Veterans Affairs, and Transportation, along with the National Governors Association and National Conference of State Legislatures) take appropriate steps to ensure that servicemembers and veterans be trained, tested, evaluated and have the opportunity to obtain any credential (i.e., licensure, certification, certificate, degree, etc.) that may be required in the local civilian workforce; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion support efforts to increase the civilian labor market's acceptance of the training, education, and prior experience provided by the Armed Forces.**