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Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor on Assembly Bill 89
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AB 89 Provisions to Expedite Licensing Would Have Limited Impact

1. Section 9: Provides endorsements within an expedited timeframe for active members of the military, veterans, and their spouses. The proposed timeline is 15 days to provide notice of any additional information required. Once an application is complete, the timeline to approve is 45 days, or 10 days after receiving a completed background check, whichever is later.
 - a. Each profession already has provisions for endorsements, so it is not necessary to overlay a new statute. Instead, the existing statutes could be modified.
 - b. 30 days should be sufficient to review a completed application.
 - c. Expedited procedures should apply to all licensees, not just those connected to the military.
2. Section 10: Requires regulatory bodies to develop opportunities for reciprocity for persons on active military duty, veterans, and their spouses who hold a license in a profession that is not recognized by Nevada.
 - a. This provision would likely have limited impact because regulatory boards would have difficulty determining how to recognize a profession that does not exist in statute.
3. Section 12: Allows regulatory bodies in health professions to create reciprocity agreements with other states. This agreement would allow a provider to practice concurrently in Nevada and other states.
 - a. It is unlikely the State's licensing boards would use this provision. Nevada's licensing boards do not have the resources to negotiate separate agreements with multiple states since they are supported solely by fees and have limited staff.
 - b. it would be inefficient for Nevada to try to broker agreements one state at a time.
4. Sections 13, 28, and 33: Create expedited endorsement procedures for medical doctors, osteopathic physicians, and podiatrists.
 - a. Each profession already has provisions for endorsements, so it is not necessary to overlay a new statute. Instead, the existing statutes could be modified.
 - b. 30 days should be sufficient to review a completed application.
 - c. Expedited procedures should apply to all professions
5. Section 36: Allows active members of the military, veterans, and their spouses to receive a provisional license to be a social worker if they are licensed in a state with requirements that are not substantially equivalent to Nevada.
 - a. Nevada's requirements can be streamlined to accept training and supervision requirements in other states so all persons (not just those connected to the military) can obtain a full license instead of a provisional license.

Recommendations to Streamline and Expedite Licensing

1. **Exam Requirements:** Simplify requirements for licensed mental health professionals coming to Nevada by requiring only national exams and not state exams. The curriculum covered in State exams can be incorporated into continuing education requirements. Eliminate provisions that require applicants who have been licensed and practicing for several years to take a new national exam.
2. **Years of Practice Requirements:** Eliminate provisions that require mental health professionals coming to Nevada to have been licensed for a minimum number of years in another state.
3. **Training Requirements:** Accept training requirements of other states in mental health professions that have substantially the same scope of practice and education requirements.
4. **Fingerprinting:** Create uniform procedures for administering fingerprinting and allow provisional or full licenses to be granted before receipt of fingerprint results. Improve DPS review times.
5. **Temporary Licenses:** Require each mental health licensing board to offer a temporary or provisional license to professionals who are licensed in other states and are in good standing so they can begin practicing before they meet all Nevada requirements.
6. **Timelines:** Create a uniform 30-day timeline to consider applications from mental health professionals licensed in other states.
7. **Interstate Compacts:** Consider joining interstate compacts in medicine, nursing, and psychology to improve recruitment from other states, which could facilitate the use of telehealth to help meet needs in underserved areas.

See full report: *Nevada's Mental Health Workforce: Shortages and Opportunities*
<http://guinncenter.org/publications/policy-reports/#SustainingNevada>

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