

## 505-2-.46. Military Support Certificate

### Nature of Amendment(s):

☒ Substantive  
☐ Clarification  
☐ Further Definition

### Discussion:

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.46 Military Support Certificate, dated July 1, 2025, be AMENDED to comply with updates to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), 50 U.S.C. § 4025a, effective December 23, 2024, and the requirements of the Settlement Agreement in *United States v. Georgia Secretary of State, GaPSC, and Georgia State Board of Pharmacy* (effective March 26, 2026). The amendments: update definitions to align with the SCRA and the Settlement Agreement; remove the prior two-year teaching requirement for SCRA applicants; restate the SCRA license portability requirements consistent with federal law; establish a Non-Renewable Professional Military Support certificate as an interim credential when an SCRA application cannot be processed within thirty (30) days; clarify that the Provisional certificate may be re-issued annually for up to three (3) years; add a validity provision for the Non-Renewable certificate.

### Current/Amended Sections(s):

(Additions are underlined in bold type; deletions are marked through.)

(1) **Summary.** The Military Support certificate identifies and supports transitioning military veterans and their spouses, allowing completion of certification requirements on a modified timeline. Once requirements are met, the appropriate certification will be issued to the individual.

(2) **Definitions.**

- (a) The term veteran(s) is used to describe active, retired, and transitioning service members.
- (b) A Military spouse is an individual married to an ~~active or transitioning~~ **active duty, National Guard, or reserve** service member.
- (c) **A servicemember is an active duty, National Guard, or reserve member of the United States armed forces. For purposes of this rule, the term Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) refers to 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901–4043.**
- (d) **For purposes of this rule, military members and military spouses may be eligible for certification under two distinct pathways:**
  - 1. **The Military Support Provisional and Professional certificate pathway, available to veterans and military family members who are working toward meeting Georgia certification requirements on a modified timeline as described in Sections (3) through (5)(a) and (6) through (13) of this rule; and**
  - 2. **The SCRA License Portability Pathway, available to servicemembers and military spouses who currently hold a professional educator certificate or license issued by another state and who moved to Georgia due to military orders, as described in Section (5)(b) of this rule. Applicants under this pathway are not required to meet Georgia certification requirements beyond those specified in 50 U.S.C. § 4025a.**

- (3) **Induction Requirements** (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.04 INDUCTION CERTIFICATE](#)).

- (a) Military Support Induction certificates are not issued. Military members and military spouses must meet the requirements for issuance of an Induction certificate as outlined in the Induction Certificate rule.

**(4) Provisional Certificate Requirements** (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.08 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE](#)). Individuals submitting documentation of meeting the veteran and military family member definition or those enrolled in the Troops to Teachers program have a modified timeline for completion of requirements:

(a) Initial Issuance.

1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution, unless Georgia does not require a bachelor's degree for the specific field. Minimum degree requirements are defined in the applicable teaching or service rule.
2. Pass the GACE Educator Ethics Assessment.
3. Individuals seeking certification in Career and Technical Specializations must meet eligibility criteria outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.90 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS](#).
4. Individuals seeking certification in Healthcare Science must meet eligibility criteria outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.87 HEALTHCARE SCIENCE](#).

(b) Year Two Issuance.

1. Attain a passing score on the GACE content assessment. If no GACE or other GaPSC-approved content assessment is available for the certification field requested, the individual is exempt from this requirement.
  - (i) For Special Education certificates, the pre-requisite requirement is the special education academic content concentration(s), which must be verified through an academic degree major or the appropriate GACE content assessment(s). The appropriate Special Education GACE content assessment must then be passed before conversion to a Professional certificate.
2. Verify enrollment in a GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted educator preparation program leading to certification in the Provisional field held by the educator.

(c) Year Three Issuance.

1. Continued enrollment in a GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted educator preparation program leading to certification in the Provisional field held by the educator.

(d) Completion Requirements.

1. Verify completion of a GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted, state-approved educator preparation program in the field.
2. Have passed the GACE Educator Ethics assessment.
3. Complete any outstanding industry testing/licensure requirements for Career and Technical Specializations or Healthcare Science as outlined in the appropriate rules.

**(5) Professional Requirements** (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.05 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE](#)).

- (a) The Standard Professional Military Support certificate is issued to individuals meeting the Call to Active-Duty requirements in (4312)(b) below.
- (b) **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. SCRA License Portability Pathway. A servicemember or military spouse who holds a professional educator certificate or license issued by another state and who moved to Georgia due to military orders may apply for a comparable Georgia educator certificate under the SCRA, 50 U.S.C. § 4025a. The application shall include:**

**Eligibility Requirements.**

- ~~(i) Moved to Georgia from the state that issued the professional certificate due to orders for military service;~~
- ~~(ii) Provided a copy of the military orders documenting the required move to Georgia;~~
- ~~(iii) Taught in a field reflected on the Submitted a professional out-of-state certificate state that issued the certificate during the two years immediately preceding the move to Georgia;~~
- ~~(iv) Remained in good standing with the state that issued the certificate and every other state that issued a certificate to the educator prior to applying for certification in Georgia.~~
- (i) Proof of military orders, which may include official military orders or any notification, certification, or verification from the servicemember's commanding officer regarding the servicemember's current or future military duty status;**
- (ii) If the applicant is a military spouse, a copy of the marriage certificate; and**
- (iii) A notarized affidavit affirming, under penalty of law, the statements required by 50 U.S.C. § 4025a(b)(3).**

**(6) Non-Renewable Requirements** (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.09 NON-RENEWABLE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE](#)). **A Non-Renewable Professional Military Support certificate may be issued under the following circumstances:**

- (a) A Non-Renewable Professional Military Support certificate is ~~not issued to military members or military spouses applying under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act if the application cannot be processed in thirty days due to outstanding documentation~~ **a servicemember or military spouse who has submitted a qualifying SCRA application and the application cannot be processed within thirty (30) days of receipt.**
- (b) A Non-Renewable Professional Military Support certificate is issued to ~~military members or military spouses~~ **a servicemember or military spouse** at the request of an employing local unit of administration (LUA) to individuals meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.09 NON-RENEWABLE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE](#).

**(7) Certificate Upgrade.**

- (a) Individuals holding Military Support certificates are eligible to upgrade their certificate with the exception of the Provisional certificate by meeting the requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE](#). Individuals holding a Provisional certificate are not eligible to upgrade to a higher certificate level until conversion to the Induction or professional certificate and meeting requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE](#)

[UPGRADE](#). Initial issuance of the Induction certificate level will be determined as outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.02 CLASSIFICATION](#).

**(8) Conversion.**

- (a) Individuals holding the Military Support certificate may apply to convert the certificate to the professional certificate upon meeting all certification requirements.

**(9) Validity.**

- (a) The Military Support Provisional certificate is issued with one (1)-year validity periods ~~for completion of requirements~~ **and may be re-issued annually for up to three (3) years total in accordance with the issuance requirements in Section (4) of this rule.**
- (b) The Military Support Professional certificate is valid for five (5) years.
- (c) **The Non-Renewable Military Support certificate is valid for one (1) year.**

**(10) Renewal.**

- (a) The Military Support certificate is non-renewable.

**(11) Assessments.**

- (a) The assessments required for the Military Support certification fields are outlined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS](#). **This subsection applies to individuals seeking the Military Support Provisional or Professional certificate under Sections (4) and (5)(a) of this rule and to individuals seeking to add a certification field.**
- (b) **Individuals receiving a Standard Professional Military Support certificate through the SCRA License Portability Pathway in Section (5)(b) of this rule are not required to complete assessments under this section. The SCRA License Portability Pathway is based on recognition of the applicant's existing professional certificate or license issued by another state.**

**(12) Call to Active Duty.**

- (a) **Non-Renewable, Provisional, and Other Certificates.** Any Georgia educator who holds a Military Support, Provisional, Induction, Non-Renewable Professional, Permit, or Waiver and is called to active duty while that certificate is valid shall have that previous certificate re-issued with new, full validity dates under the following conditions:
  1. The educator was employed by a local unit of administration (LUA) when called to active duty.
  2. The educator is employed by a Georgia LUA within the same year or the year following active military duty.
  3. The certificate is requested by a Georgia LUA.
- (b) **Renewable Professional Certificates.** Any Georgia educator who holds a renewable professional certificate and is called to active military duty while that certificate is valid shall have that previous certificate renewed for the full five (5)-year validity, even if renewal requirements have not otherwise been met, under the following conditions:

1. The educator was employed by a Georgia LUA when called to active duty.
2. The educator or an employing Georgia LUA applies for the renewal. The application packet must include a copy of the military orders showing start and end dates of the active duty period.
3. If the certificate expired during the period of active duty, the new validity date shall be the first day of the month following the end of active duty, provided receipt of the renewal application and the end of active duty are within the same fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). If the renewal application is received after the end of the fiscal year in which active military duty ended, the renewed certificate will have a beginning validity date of July 1 of the fiscal year in which the application was received. If the certificate did not expire during the period of active duty, the new validity date shall be July 1 following the expiration date.

(13) **In-Field Statement** (See GaPSC Rule [505-2-.40 IN-FIELD ASSIGNMENT](#)).

- (a) An individual holding the Military Support certificate is in-field to serve in positions as indicated by the certificate or license type and teach specified Georgia curriculum courses aligned to the field of certification. Each state-approved curriculum course, with specified certificate fields that are designated as in-field, may be found under Certification/Curriculum Assignment Policies (CAPs) on the GaPSC web site at [www.gapsc.com](http://www.gapsc.com).

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200.