

## **Report of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources**

### **Pursuant to Chapter 524 of the 2012 Acts of the Assembly**

**October, 2013**

Chapter 524 of the 2012 Acts of the Assembly specified that *“the regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Department of Health Professions, or any board named in this title shall accept the military training, education, or experience of a service member honorably discharged from active military service in the armed forces of the United States, to the extent that such training, education, or experience is substantially equivalent to the requirements established by law and regulations of the respective board for the issuance of any license, permit, certificate, or other document, however styled or denominated, required for the practice of any business, profession, or occupation in the Commonwealth.”*

The second enactment of Chapter 524 directed: *“That the Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall report annually to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology on the number of licenses or permits issued pursuant to the provisions of this act.”*

For the period of October 2012 to October 2013, the Department of Health Professions has only issued licenses for individuals based upon their meeting the requirements expressly provided in statute and board regulations. The majority of health professions licenses require graduation from an accredited or approved education program at the associate’s degree level of education and above and additional standardized clinical training. Professionals at this level hold officer rank and are required by the military to be licensed in at least one state in the United States. Therefore, health regulatory boards are able to license those professionals by endorsement, so there is no comparison of military credentials needed.

Chapter 524 (2012), then, primarily applies to enlisted-level service members and veterans. The enlisted comprise 82% of the current military population. Of these, the majority have attained an education at the high school level or below. Thus, their training, education or experience is not substantially equivalent to the requirements established by law and regulation.