



Legal Assistance Department, Region Legal Service Office Western Pacific  
Yokosuka Office: YokosukaLegalAssistance@fe.navy.mil  
Sasebo Branch: SaseboLegalAssistance@fe.navy.mil  
Guam Branch: GuamLegalAssistance@fe.navy.mil  
[http://www.jag.navy.mil/legal\\_services/rlso/rlso\\_japan.htm](http://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/rlso/rlso_japan.htm)

Driver's License

## Preventative Law Series

### Regional Legal Service Office Western Pacific Preventative Law Series: State Survey Regarding Automatic Extension of Driver's License for Active Duty Service Members and their Spouses

In most cases, an active duty Servicemember is not automatically exempted from their home state's requirements for maintaining a current, valid driver's license. The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act **does not** contain any provisions or protections regarding state requirements for driver's licenses, and each state varies in its extension and renewal options. Additionally, there are various provisions for dependents, whether they are spouses or children, who are residing with a Servicemember outside their home state. Fortunately, many states allow Servicemembers and their dependents more flexibility with regard to how and when they must apply for a license renewal. Below is a summary of each state's regulations.

#### Notes:

- Under federal law, you can only have one driver's license, issued by your state of residence.
- While some states have "automatic" extensions of licenses beyond their expiration, it is still a very good idea to get in touch with their Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a letter verifying that the license remains valid. This will help avoid arguments with law enforcement in other states that may not be aware of the "automatic" extension. Moreover, informing your state of your status may prevent it from deleting your information from its records or sending you stern letters warning you to renew.
- In all cases, renewals or "automatic" extensions do not apply if your driver's license is suspended, cancelled, or revoked.
- Commercial driver's licenses or special endorsements are not addressed here.

**NOTE: THESE REGULATIONS ARE BASED ON PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION AS OF 1 JULY 2021 AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR LICENSING AUTHORITY FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE REGULATIONS.**

#### Regulations per state:

**Alabama:** No automatic extension. Alabama residents in the military and their dependents can apply for driver's license renewal by mail if their license is less than four years old.  
<https://www.alea.gov/sites/default/files/dl-forms/DuplicateLicenseRenewal.pdf>

**Alaska:** Automatic extension for active duty and spouse. Extension is valid for 90 days after discharge or return to state, whichever occurs first. You may also request a "military expiration endorsement" to carry with your license.  
[www.doa.alaska.gov/dmv/akol/military.htm](http://www.doa.alaska.gov/dmv/akol/military.htm)

**DRIVER'S LICENSE  
EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS**

**Arizona:** No automatic extension. Active duty Arizona residents and their dependents in the military may renew by mail if their license is not revoked or expired.

<https://azdot.gov/motor-vehicles/driver-services/military-personnel/driver-license-services>

**Arkansas:** No automatic extension. Arkansas residents in the military may renew by mail and their license will be valid for 60 days after discharge or return to state. See A.C.A. § 27-16-902.

**California:** Automatic extension for active duty and spouse. Extension is valid for 90 days after discharge or 30 days after return to CA. You should request and carry an “Extension of License for Person in Armed Forces” card with your license.

<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-education-and-safety/special-interest-driver-guides/veterans-and-active-duty-military/>

**Colorado:** No automatic extension. Colorado residents may renew by mail or online, including licenses that have been expired for up to a year. You may also request a free three-year extension by mail or online. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/active-duty-military-and-veterans>

**Connecticut:** No automatic extension. Connecticut residents in the military may renew by mail for free. <https://portal.ct.gov/DMV/Licenses/Licenses/Renewing-a-License/Drivers-License---Renewing--Military-Personnel>

**Delaware:** No automatic extension. Delaware residents in the military and their dependents can renew by mail, including licenses that have expired.

[https://dmv.de.gov/DriverServices/other/index.shtml?dc=dr\\_oth\\_military\\_renewal](https://dmv.de.gov/DriverServices/other/index.shtml?dc=dr_oth_military_renewal)

**District of Columbia:** No automatic extension. No special provisions for residents in the military. Renewal by mail or online permitted. <https://dmv.dc.gov/node/1119107>

**Florida:** No automatic extension. Florida residents in the military and their dependents can be granted one year extensions by mail. Extension is valid for 90 days after discharge or return to state, whichever occurs first. <https://www.flhsmv.gov/military/>

**Georgia:** No automatic extension. Georgia residents in the military and their dependents can renew by mail. Service Members with an expired Georgia driver's license have a 6 month grace period for expired license citations when driving in Georgia.

<https://dds.georgia.gov/military-veterans-and-national-guard>

**Hawaii:** Varies by county. See county of issuance for assistance.

**Idaho:** No automatic extension. Idaho residents in the military and their immediately family may obtain a four year extension by mail or online. <https://itd.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/3153.pdf>

## DRIVER'S LICENSE EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS

- Illinois:** No automatic extension. Illinois residents in the military and their dependents can obtain deferment of the expiration of their license for up to 120 months following discharge or return to state. Renewal may be done online, by mail, or over the phone. [https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers\\_license/drlicid.html#military](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/drlicid.html#military)
- Indiana:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Extension is valid for 90 days after discharge. Call or email for a renewed license, or carry a Military Extension Letter. <https://www.in.gov/bmv/resources/military-families/>
- Iowa:** No automatic extension. Active duty and dependent Iowa residents may request an extension, valid until 6 months after separation, by email or mail. Dependents may request an extension that will last 5 years after expiration. <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense/renew#military>
- Kansas:** No automatic extension. Active duty and dependent Kansas residents may renew licenses or get a 6 month extension through the mail. <https://www.ksrevenue.org/dovoutofstate.html>
- Kentucky:** No automatic extension. Active duty Kentucky residents may renew by mail. They may renew expired licenses within 3 months of returning to the state. <https://drive.ky.gov/driver-licensing/Pages/Drivers-License-and-ID-Card.aspx#military-personnel-only>
- Louisiana:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Louisiana residents in the military and their dependents' driver's licenses remain valid until 60 days after discharge. <http://dpsweb.dps.louisiana.gov/omv1.nsf/58c968bd569b099986256cdc000806eb/e1e57e0f49f3f869862564ae0066b9ce?OpenDocument>
- Maine:** No automatic extension. Free online renewal available with a "K" or "2" endorsement which can be added by calling the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. <http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/licenses/renewfaq.html>
- Maryland:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Extension is valid for 30 days after discharge or return to state. <https://mva.maryland.gov/drivers/Pages/military.aspx>
- Massachusetts:** Automatic extension for active duty. Massachusetts residents in the military's licenses remain valid until 60 days after return to the state. Dependents have no automatic extension. Member and dependents may request "non-photo" license renewals by mail. <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/drivers-license-renewals-and-replacements-for-military-and-their-spousesdependents>
- Michigan:** Automatic extension for active duty. Extension is valid for 30 days after first period of leave or discharge from military. Leave does not have to be taken in Michigan to qualify. Michigan personnel should renew their licenses online or by mail as a result. [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1627\\_8669\\_53327---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1627_8669_53327---,00.html)

**DRIVER'S LICENSE  
EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS**

**Minnesota:** Automatic extension for active duty and spouses. Extension is valid for 1 year after discharge. You should notify DVS of your military status.

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages/dvs-content-detail.aspx?pageID=542>

**Mississippi:** No automatic extension. Mississippi residents in the military may renew by mail.

<https://www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov/Drivers/Military>

**Missouri:** No automatic extension. Missouri residents in the military may renew by mail.

<https://dor.mo.gov/military/>

**Montana:** No automatic extension. Active duty Montana residents may apply for an expiration exemption which will make the license valid until until 3 months after discharge. You may renew by mail. Dependents may apply for two consecutive 8 year renewals by mail.

<https://dojmt.gov/driving/military-services/#license>

**Nebraska:** Automatic extension for active duty and family members. Extension is valid for 60 days after discharge or return to state. You may request a military exemption form by mail to attach to your license.

<https://dmv.nebraska.gov/dvr/military-exemption-process>

**Nevada:** No automatic extension. Nevada residents in the military and their dependents may renew by mail.

<https://dmvnev.com/milnvres.htm>

**New Hampshire:** No automatic extension. New Hampshire residents on active duty and their spouses may renew by mail.

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/dmv/driver-licensing/military-personnel/index.htm>

**New Jersey:** Automatic extension during deployment. Upon deployment New Jersey residents (automatically) and their dependents (upon request by mail) are given extensions valid until 3 months after demobilization date or return from duty. Request an administrative order by mail to carry with you. No other provisions for residents in the military.

<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/veterans.htm>

**New Mexico:** Automatic extension for active duty and spouses. Extension is valid for 31 days after discharge or return to the state.

<https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/nm-drivers-licenses-ids/military/>

**New York:** Automatic extension for active duty. Extension is valid for 6 months after discharge. Active duty should notify DMV of entry into military service via form MV-75 but are not required to.

<https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/automatic-license-and-registration-extension-military-personnel>

**North Carolina:** No automatic extension. North Carolina allows mail renewal in limited circumstances.

<https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/offices-services/military/Pages/license-renewal.aspx>

**DRIVER'S LICENSE  
EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS**

**North Dakota:** Automatic extension for active duty. Extension valid for 30 days after discharge -- provided member remains out of the state -- or return to state. Member and spouse can renew by mail. <https://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/driverslicense/activeduty.htm>

**Ohio:** No automatic extension. Ohio residents in the military and their dependents may renew online. <https://bmvonline.dps.ohio.gov/Home/OtherServices>

**Oklahoma:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Extension valid for 60 days after discharge or return to state. See Oklahoma Motor Vehicle Statute §47-6-121.

**Oregon:** No automatic extension. No special provisions for residents in the military. Renewals may be done over the phone at (503) 945-5000. <https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/pages/driverid/idget.aspx>

**Pennsylvania:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Extension valid for 45 days after discharge or return to state. Driver must carry documentation indicating service assignment outside the state. Mail and online renewal are also available. <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Information-Centers/Military-Veterans/Pages/Military-Personnel.aspx>

**Rhode Island:** No automatic extension. Pursuant to Rhode Island statute, a special military driver's license may be available by contacting the Rhode Island DMV. This military driver's license will be valid for 30 days after discharge. <http://www.dmv.ri.gov/licenses/renewal/>

**South Carolina:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Extension valid for 90 days after discharge. Member and dependents may renew online or through the mail. <http://www.scdmvonline.com/Driver-Services/Military>

**South Dakota:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Extension valid for 90 days after discharge or return to the state. Driver must carry proof of military service. Mail and online renewal is available. <https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing/south-dakota-licensing-information/veterans>

**Tennessee:** Automatic extension for active duty. Extension valid for 60 days after discharge or return to the state. You may file documents with the state to have a military code reflected on license. <https://www.tn.gov/safety/driver-services/class/dlrenew.html#military>

**Texas:** Automatic extension for active duty. Extension valid for 90 days after discharge. You may also renew by mail. <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/renew-or-replacing-your-dl-or-id-while-you-are-out-state>

**Utah:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Extension valid for 90 days after discharge. <https://www.dmv.org/ut-utah/military-drivers/#:~:text=Military%20personnel%2C%20their%20immediate%20family,for%20an%20extension%20or%20renewal.>

## DRIVER'S LICENSE EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS

**Vermont:** Automatic extension for active duty for up to 4 years after normal expiration date or 30 days after discharge, whichever is sooner. <https://dmv.vermont.gov/military>

**Virginia:** No automatic extension. Virginia residents in the military and their dependents may apply by mail for one extension for up to 3 years or 180 days after returning to the state, whichever is sooner. You will need to carry an "Extension Card" with your license. <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/general/#outsideva/military.asp>

**Washington:** Automatic extension for active duty and dependents. Extension valid for 90 days after discharge. You should get a DOL Authorization Card (in person) that documents your eligibility. Renewals may be done by mail. <https://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/military.html>

**West Virginia:** Automatic extension for active duty. Extension valid for 6 months after discharge. Renewals may be done by mail. <https://transportation.wv.gov/DMV/Drivers/Pages/Drivers-Licenses.aspx>

**Wisconsin:** Automatic extension for active duty. Extension valid for 90 days after discharge or 30 days after return to the state, whichever is sooner. However, you should submit a signed statement to the Division of Motor Vehicles noting you qualify for the extension, and carry confirmation with your license. Renewals may be done by mail. <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drvs/miltry-svc/active-duty.aspx>

**Wyoming:** No automatic extension. Wyoming residents on active duty may apply for an "I" restriction that will waive their expiration date while on active duty. Contact your local DOT office for questions. You may renew by mail as often as necessary. When you return to the state, you must appear in person to be issued a new license with an updated photo. [http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver\\_license\\_records/driver-license.html](http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver_license_records/driver-license.html)

**\*\*\* Most extensions after discharge only apply for Honorable or General discharge \*\*\***  
**\*\*\* Commercial driver's licenses are often subject to additional regulations\*\*\***

CONSULT YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OR EQUIVALENT  
STATE AGENCY FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Regional Legal Service Office Western Pacific Preventative Law Series: State Survey Regarding Automatic Extension of Driver's License for Active Duty Service Members and their Spouses

States With Automatic Extension					
State	Active Duty	Spouse	State	Active Duty	Spouse
Alabama	No	No	Montana	No	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Nebraska	Yes	Yes
Arizona	No	No	Nevada	No	No
Arkansas	No	No	New Hampshire	No	No
California	Yes	Yes	New Jersey	Varies*	By Mail*
Colorado	No	No	New Mexico	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	No	New York	Yes	No
Delaware	No	No	North Carolina	No	No
Florida	No	No	North Dakota	Yes	No
Georgia	No	No	Ohio	No	NO
Hawaii	By county	By County	Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Idaho	No	No	Oregon	No	No
Illinois	No	No	Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Rhode Island	No	No
Iowa	No	No	South Carolina	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	No	South Dakota	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	No	No	Tennessee	Yes	NO
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	Texas	Yes	No
Maine	No	No	Utah	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Vermont	Yes	
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Virginia	No	No
Michigan	Yes	No	Washington	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	West Virginia	Yes	No
Mississippi	No	No	Wisconsin	Yes	No
Missouri	No	No	Wyoming	No	No

\*Automatic extension during deployment. Upon deployment New Jersey residents (automatically) and their dependents (upon request by mail) are given extensions valid until 3 months after demobilization date or return from duty.