

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 2035

H.P. 1517

House of Representatives, March 29, 2022

An Act To Make Changes to the Laws Regarding Licensure of Certain Individuals from Other Jurisdictions

Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

 Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §8003, sub-§2-A, ¶O, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 167, §3, is amended to read:

O. To exercise discretionary authority, after consultation with the appropriate licensing board, commission or personnel administering a regulatory function of the office, to waive, on a case-by-case basis in situations of extreme and demonstrated hardship, documentation requirements for licensure submitted by applicants for licensure educated in or with relevant experience or licensure in other jurisdictions, including other states, United States territories, foreign nations and foreign administrative divisions, as long as the waiver does not reduce the requisite standards of proficiency for the licensed profession or occupation. The Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation may adopt rules to implement this paragraph. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A;

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §8003, sub-§2-A, ¶P, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 167, §4, is amended to read:

P. To exercise discretionary authority, after consultation with the appropriate licensing board, commission or personnel administering a regulatory function of the office, to waive, on a case-by-case basis in situations of extreme and demonstrated hardship, examination fees and license fees set pursuant to paragraph D for applicants for licensure educated in or with relevant experience or licensure in other jurisdictions, including other states, United States territories, foreign nations and foreign administrative divisions. The Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation may adopt rules to implement this paragraph. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A;

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §8003-H, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 167, §10 and c. 289, §1, is amended to read:

The Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, referred to in this section as "the office," Notwithstanding any provision of Title 32 to the contrary that pertains to the regulatory functions of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, referred to in this section as "the office," or that governs the licensing boards and commissions within the office, the office, including the licensing boards and commissions within the office, shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who presents proof of licensure by another jurisdiction of the United States as long as the other jurisdiction maintains substantially equivalent license requirements for the licensed profession or occupation and as long as:

Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §8003-H, 3rd ¶, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 167, §10 and c. 289, §1, is amended to read:

The office, including the licensing boards and commissions within the office, shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. If the office determines that an applicant for licensure meets the requirements of this section, the office may issue

a license by endorsement under this section before rules required by this section have been finally adopted.

Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §9021, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. License by endorsement. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this subsection or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §63-B, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Licensure by endorsement. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this subsection or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §220-D is enacted to read:

§220-D. Licensure by endorsement

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Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §294-A is enacted to read:

§294-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 9. 32 MRSA §552, as amended by PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. B, §6, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§552. Examination of applicants; subjects included; license; endorsement

Sec. 10. 32 MRSA §552-A is enacted to read:

§552-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 11. 32 MRSA §1201-B is enacted to read:

§1201-B. Licensure by endorsement

 Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 12. 32 MRSA §1501-D is enacted to read:

§1501-D. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 13. 32 MRSA §1525-B is enacted to read:

§1525-B. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the director shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

- **Sec. 14. 32 MRSA §2279, sub-§6,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 294, §6, is amended by enacting a new first blocked paragraph to read:
- Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized by this chapter.
- **Sec. 15. 32 MRSA §3114-B,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. N, §6, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§3114-B. Endorsement Examination waiver

Sec. 16. 32 MRSA §3114-C is enacted to read:

§3114-C. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 17. 32 MRSA §3501-C is enacted to read:

§3501-C. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 18. 32 MRSA §3654, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. P, §12, is further amended to read:

§3654. Reciprocity; endorsement; residency requirement

The board may issue a license to practice podiatry by endorsement to an applicant who has successfully passed the written examination of another state or of a national certifying agency in podiatry recognized by the board if the written examination of the other state or national certifying agency was equivalent to its own examination and if the applicant satisfies in all other respects the requirements for licensure in section 3651-A. An applicant for licensure by endorsement under this section who graduated after January 1, 1991 from podiatric medical school under section 3651-A shall provide the board evidence of satisfactory completion of at least one year of postgraduate clinical training in a podiatric residency training program under section 3651-A. The application to the board must be accompanied by the application fee and license fee as set under section 3652.

Sec. 19. 32 MRSA §3654-A is enacted to read:

§3654-A. Licensure by endorsement

 Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 20. 32 MRSA §3836, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. Q, §12, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§3836. Endorsement; conditional Conditional licensure

Sec. 21. 32 MRSA §3836-A is enacted to read:

§3836-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 22. 32 MRSA §4861, as amended by PL 2015, c. 209, §14, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§4861. Application for license; qualifications and examination; endorsement

Sec. 23. 32 MRSA §4861, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2011, c. 189, §1, is further amended to read:

- **5.** Licensure by endorsement License from another jurisdiction. The board shall grant a license by endorsement to a veterinarian who:
 - A. Has submitted a complete application;

- B. Has paid the examination and license fee as set under section 4863-A;
- C. Holds a valid license issued by another state, United States territory, province of Canada or other jurisdiction;
- D-1. Has successfully passed an examination pursuant to subsection 1-A pertaining to the practice of veterinary medicine as determined by board rule. The board may require the applicant to submit to an examination covering the laws and rules pertaining to the practice of veterinary medicine in this State; and
- E. Has actively practiced clinical veterinary medicine for 3,000 hours during the 3 years preceding application.

Notwithstanding this subsection, the board shall waive the requirement that a veterinarian pass an examination for veterinarians who have, during the 6 years preceding the application, actively practiced clinical veterinary medicine for at least 6,000 hours without disciplinary action relating to the practice of veterinary medicine by another state, United States territory or province of Canada.

Sec. 24. 32 MRSA §4861, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

- 6. Licensure by endorsement. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this subsection or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.
- **Sec. 25. 32 MRSA §4909, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 285, §11, is amended to read:
- **4.** Licensure by endorsement License from another jurisdiction. The board, in its discretion and upon payment of the application and license fees established pursuant to section 4912, may issue a license as a geologist or soil scientist without written examination to any person who is licensed as a geologist or soil scientist in any jurisdiction having equivalent licensure requirements, if the applicant satisfies all other requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 26. 32 MRSA §4909-A is enacted to read:

§4909-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 27. 32 MRSA §5516, as amended by PL 2013, c. 527, §§6 and 7 and affected by §9, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§5516. Nonresidents; applicants licensed in another jurisdiction; licensure by endorsement

Sec. 28. 32 MRSA §5516, sub-§2, ¶D is enacted to read:

- D. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this paragraph or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.
- **Sec. 29. 32 MRSA §6220,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. B, §14, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§6220. License from another jurisdiction; licensure by endorsement

- 1. License from another jurisdiction. The board may waive the requirements of this chapter and grant a registration, certificate or license to any applicant who presents proof of authorization to practice by another jurisdiction of the United States or another country that maintains professional standards considered by the board to be substantially equivalent to or higher than those set forth in this chapter, as long as there is no cause for denial of a registration, certificate or license under section 6217-B or Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A, paragraph A. The applicant must pay the application and license fee as set under section 6215.
- 2. Licensure by endorsement. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.
 - Sec. 30. 32 MRSA §7054-C is enacted to read:

§7054-C. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 31. 32 MRSA §9709-A is enacted to read:

§9709-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 32. 32 MRSA §9857, as repealed and replaced by PL 2005, c. 511, §7, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§9857. Nonresidents; applicants licensed in another jurisdiction; licensure by endorsement

Sec. 33. 32 MRSA §9857, sub-§2, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this paragraph or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 34. 32 MRSA §9907-A is enacted to read:

§9907-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 35. 32 MRSA §12231-A is enacted to read:

§12231-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this subchapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this subchapter.

Sec. 36. 32 MRSA §12513-B is enacted to read:

§12513-B. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this subchapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this subchapter.

Sec. 37. 32 MRSA §12525-A is enacted to read:

§12525-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this subchapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this subchapter.

Sec. 38. 32 MRSA §12534-A is enacted to read:

§12534-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this subchapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this subchapter.

Sec. 39. 32 MRSA §12552-A is enacted to read:

§12552-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this subchapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this subchapter.

Sec. 40. 32 MRSA §13193-A is enacted to read:

§13193-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter to the contrary, the commission shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this subchapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this subchapter.

- **Sec. 41. 32 MRSA §13857,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 217, Pt. G, §§1 and 2 and Pt. K, §8, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:
- §13857. Nonresidents; applicants licensed in another jurisdiction; licensure by endorsement
 - Sec. 42. 32 MRSA §13857, sub-§2, ¶E is enacted to read:
 - E. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this paragraph or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.
- **Sec. 43. 32 MRSA §14024,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 547, §§2 and 3 and affected by §19, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:
- §14024. Nonresidents and applicants Applicants licensed in another jurisdiction; licensure by endorsement
 - **Sec. 44. 32 MRSA §14024, sub-§4** is enacted to read:
- 4. Licensure by endorsement. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this subsection or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

- Sec. 45. 32 MRSA §14231, as amended by PL 2019, c. 373, §36, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:
- §14231. Endorsement; examination Examination eligibility for out-of-state applicants
 - Sec. 46. 32 MRSA §14231-A is enacted to read:

§14231-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the director shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 47. 32 MRSA §14306-H is enacted to read:

§14306-H. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the commissioner shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 48. 32 MRSA §14357-A is enacted to read:

§14357-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the commissioner shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

- **Sec. 49. 32 MRSA §15103-A, sub-§2, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 2013, c. 70, Pt. C, §10, is amended to read:
 - B. Requirements for licensure of boiler operators, stationary steam engineers and authorized inspectors, including requirements for a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section;
 - Sec. 50. 32 MRSA §15207-A is enacted to read:

§15207-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the director shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 51. 32 MRSA §17303, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 369, Pt. C, §3 and affected by §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§17303. License from another jurisdiction; licensure by endorsement

- 1. License from another jurisdiction. The board may waive the examination and grant licensure to an applicant who presents proof of current licensure in another jurisdiction that maintains professional standards determined by the board to be substantially equivalent to those set forth in this chapter, if no cause exists for denial of a license under section 17307.
- 2. Licensure by endorsement. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this subsection or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 52. 32 MRSA §18142-A is enacted to read:

§18142-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. 53. 32 MRSA §18227-A is enacted to read:

§18227-A. Licensure by endorsement

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized by this chapter to an applicant pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-H and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to that section. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this section or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

SUMMARY

This bill implements the legislative intent of Public Law 2021, chapter 167. The bill clarifies that certain documentation and fee waivers may be authorized only in situations of extreme and demonstrated hardship and only for individuals educated or trained in jurisdictions outside the United States. The bill also allows a licensing entity the opportunity to issue licenses by endorsement prior to the conclusion of the rule-making process.

In addition, the bill adds language to the powers of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation and to certain licensing entities within the office to clarify that the licensing entities are required to establish a process for licensure by endorsement despite any conflicting statutory language. This bill clarifies that an applicant to the licensing entities within the office may apply under the application process of the applicant's choice.