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Testimony of Rep. Anne Perry introducing

LD 2057, An Act to Require the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy to Obtain Fingerprint-based Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Checks for Applicants for Licensure
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Senator Bailey, and esteemed colleagues on the HCIFS Committee, my name is Anne Perry and I represent House district #9.

I am pleased to present LD 2057 on behalf of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (“OPOR”).

LD 2057 seeks to implement a requirement of two interstate compacts that Maine has recently joined – the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. As a compact member state, Maine has agreed to seek authorization to use FBI fingerprint-based criminal background checks when an individual applies for initial licensure to either the Maine Board of Examiners of Psychologists or the Maine Board of Physical Therapy. Currently, all licensing boards and programs within OPOR, with the exception of the Board of Real Estate Appraisers, run a State Bureau of Identification (“SBI”) background check during the initial licensure process. To be authorized to also receive the results of an FBI fingerprint based check, federally-approved legislation is required.

Passage of LD 2057 will enable Maine to satisfy this prerequisite to participating in these interstate compacts. I would be happy to answer any questions, but I recommend that you hold questions for OPOR’s Deputy Director Kristin Racine, who will be in a better position to respond.

District 9: Grand Lake Stream Plantation, Passamaquoddy Indian Township, Baileyville, Baring Plantation, Calais, Meddybemps, Robbinston, Perry, Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point and Eastport