



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
MAINE RELAY 711

David W. Boyer Jr.

112 Verrill Road
Poland, ME 04274
David.Boyer@legislature.maine.gov
Cell: (207) 274-4633

Testimony of Rep. David Boyer introducing

LD 530, An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor

March 11, 2025

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and esteemed members of the Committee on Labor, my name is Rep. David Boyer, and I am proud to present LD 530, An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform. Originally a concept draft, this bill has been updated with a sponsor's amendment.

The proposed amendment would remove the presumption that a potential attorney lacks "good moral character" if they have been previously convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment of one year or more.

With our Judicial branch facing an unprecedented constitutional crisis, it is imperative that we explore all options to address Maine's lawyer shortage. Additionally, our state has made significant progress on criminal justice reform and second-chance legislation. Our current statute could discourage otherwise qualified potential lawyers from pursuing a legal career.

This bill does not seek to alter the Board of Bar Examiners' or the Supreme Judicial Court's factors when considering whether an applicant meets the good moral character requirement.

In response to the Board's submitted testimony, I would like to clarify that this amendment was inspired by a recent conversation with a colleague working on criminal justice reform issues. As lawmakers, we would love to reach out to every interested party on every bill that we submit, but it is simply not feasible. Thankfully, these public hearings provide an opportunity for supporters and opponents to have their voices heard.

By removing this presumption and allowing for further investigation by the Board, we could encourage more qualified individuals—particularly those with firsthand knowledge of the criminal justice system—to pursue legal careers. This is not about lowering standards; it's about expanding the pool of capable professionals who can serve our communities.

I appreciate the committee's consideration and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.