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**TESTIMONY OF PETER P. MICHAUD  
PUBLIC MEMBER  
BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC LICENSURE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION  
in support of  
LD 1757  
An Act to Update the Laws Governing Osteopathic Physician Licensing**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services  
May 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee: my name is Peter Michaud, and I am one of three public members of the Board of Osteopathic Licensure (Osteopathic Board). I am testifying in support of LD 1757, which will update certain provisions of the laws relating to osteopathic physician licensing and board operations.

The Board of Osteopathic Licensure licenses and regulates osteopathic physicians (DOs) and physician assistants in Maine. It consists of eleven members in total: six DO physicians, two physician assistants, and three public members. The board's purpose is to protect Maine patients by ensuring that licensees are professional, competent, and ethical. It accomplishes this mission by ensuring that only properly qualified applicants are licensed to treat Maine patients; investigating and adjudicating complaints against unprofessional, incompetent or unethical licensees; and enacting rules to govern certain professional practices. All statutes relating to board operations should be viewed through that lens.

LD 1757:

- Modernizes the requirement for board meetings, changing the requirement from a single meeting in June to monthly meetings. This reflects the current reality that the board meets monthly and at other special times when needed, such as for rulemaking and adjudicatory hearings.
- Removes the requirement that the entire Board of Osteopathic Licensure conduct a vote on every single application for licensure. This will allow the board to delegate the review and approval of most applications for licensure to a board officer and/or staff, allowing license applications to be approved without waiting for the monthly meeting and a vote of the full board. License applications with negative information affecting the suitability for licensure can still be reviewed by the full board.
- Update the statute to remove the requirement for temporary licenses for physicians

participating in “fellowships”, an advanced level of subspecialty training. Physicians in fellowship have already completed residency training and thus qualify for a full license. The bill also extends the upper limit for license fees to reflect the increased cost of running board operations over time.

- Updates the post-graduate training requirements to reflect current minimum training standards for all osteopathic physicians who graduate after 2025 by clarifying the educational and training requirements to align with the vast majority of jurisdictions and the minimum training requirements prescribed by the American Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The ACGME accredits postgraduate medical training (residency) programs in the United States, including the length of training which varies among medical specialties (i.e. internal medicine, diagnostic radiology, general surgery, psychiatry, etc.). The current, outdated statute requires only one year of training after medical school, which is generally referred to as the “internship year” and does not provide the depth of training necessary to protect the public. Modern medical practice is increasingly complex, and these training requirements reflect that current reality. The vast majority of DO physicians now practicing in Maine have completed at least three years of residency.

The Board of Osteopathic Licensure will make a representative available for the work session. We ask that you vote “ought to pass” on LD 1757. I would be pleased to address any questions you may have.