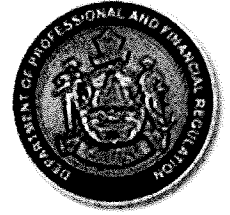




STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION  
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE



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**TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY TERRANOVA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION  
L.D. 1854**

**An Act to Require the Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure, Board of Dental Practice, Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing and Board of Occupational Therapy Practice to Obtain Fingerprint based Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Checks for Initial Applicants and Licensees Seeking Compact Privileges**

**Presented by Senator Mathieson**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services**

**May 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I am Tim Terranova, Executive Director of the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine ("BOLIM"). I am here today to testify in favor of the amendment for LD 1854.

BOLIM licenses and regulates allopathic physicians and physician assistants in Maine. BOLIM is composed of 11 members: 6 physicians who actively practice medicine; 2 physician assistants who actively render medical services; and 3 public members. BOLIM's mission is to protect the public by ensuring its licensees are ethical, professional and competent. It fulfills this mission by licensing, regulating, and educating physician and physician assistants.

The 131<sup>st</sup> legislature passed a bill enacting the PA Compact in Maine. In order to fully participate in the compact, one of the requirements is that all PA applicants pass a criminal background check. Once the law became effective a request was sent to the FBI, which declined the request, indicating it does not approve Interstate Compacts.

BOLIM encountered this previously when Maine entered the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) for MDs and DOs. The FBI initially declined the state's request and new, specific language was introduced and passed in the legislature clarifying the use and confidentiality of the criminal background check information. The language in the amendment is based on the language that was acceptable to the FBI for use with the IMLC.

This inability to fully participate in compacts is a national phenomenon affecting multiple states and legislation has been introduced in the US House and Senate (co-sponsored by Senator King) that would instruct the FBI to allow criminal background checks for the purposes of interstate compacts. However, we do not know if, or when, the legislation might pass and this bill is an attempt to ensure full participation as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments regarding LD 1854. I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session.

Office Location: 161 Capitol Street Augusta, ME 04330  
Mailing Address: 137 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333  
[www.maine.gov/md](http://www.maine.gov/md)

Phone: (207) 287-3601

TTY: Please Call Maine Relay 711

Consumer Assistance: (888) 365-9964

Fax: (207) 287-6590