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Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
& FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION



Penny Vaillancourt
Director

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Commissioner

**TESTIMONY OF
PENNY VAILLANCOURT, DIRECTOR**

**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
IN SUPPORT OF LD 1990**

**“AN ACT TO UPDATE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGY LICENSURE”
(EMERGENCY PREAMBLE)**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

PUBLIC HEARING: JANUARY 13, 2026, 1:00 PM

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Committee, I am Penny Vaillancourt, Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (“OPOR”). OPOR has 38 licensing boards and programs including the Board of Examiners of Psychologists (“Board”). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of OPOR regarding LD 1990.

The Board’s sole statutory purpose is to protect the public and it does so by identifying minimum standards for licensure, investigating allegations of unprofessional or incompetent practice and imposing discipline when deemed appropriate. The Board issues licensure to individuals seeking to practice either as a psychologist or a psychological examiner upon meeting the educational and examination requirements. Currently, there are 822 actively licensed psychologists and 28 actively licensed psychological examiners.

This bill proposes to remove a six-month waiting period for an individual seeking licensure who has successfully completed the educational, post-doctoral work experience and competency-based examination requirements, but who did not successfully pass the Board’s jurisprudence examination on

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their first attempt. The current process for obtaining licensure is for an applicant to file an application, submit documentation verifying the education, experience and national examination requirements and submit a completed open-book jurisprudence state board examination. If the applicant fails the jurisprudence examination, then they cannot obtain licensure for at least six months even after subsequent passage of the jurisprudence examination.

Currently, there are four applicants seeking psychology licensure who have successfully retaken the Board's jurisprudence examination, but who must wait until the six-month window has expired before board staff can grant licensure. This bill takes one small step towards modernizing and streamlining its licensure requirements and a step towards reducing barriers to increase access to behavioral health professionals in Maine.

In closing, I would respectfully request that the committee consider adding an amendment to remove the six-month waiting period as found in the licensure qualifications of psychological examiner pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 3831.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions now or at work session.

