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Testimony of Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio presenting

LD 2074, An Act to Update the Requirements for Social Work Licensure

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

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Anne-Marie Mastraccio, and I represent House District 142, which includes parts of Sanford and Springvale. I am pleased to be here today as the sponsor of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation's bill, **LD 2074, An Act to Update the Requirements for Social Worker Licensure**.

This bill amends several provisions of the licensure qualifications for social workers in an effort to reduce barriers and streamline the licensure process. The bill expands the qualifying degrees for conditional licensure, streamlines the qualifications for licensure specific to the consultation and social work experience requirements, removes requirements for initial licensure that have created barriers to entering or re-entering the social work profession, clarifies the consultant eligibility, removes the two-tiered system for eligibility for DHHS social workers and non-DHHS social workers and expands the board's authority to consider consultation and social work experience gained in this state or another jurisdiction when seeking either initial licensure, late renewal or reinstatement of licensure.

Thank you for your attention. I would be happy to answer any questions but recommend that you wait until the representative of the Department shares a little more information about the bill.