

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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May 6, 2021

Senator Heather Sanborn, Chair
Representative Denise Tepler, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial
Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 863 – An Act To Have Maine Join the Interstate Psychology Interjurisdictional
Compact To Improve Telehealth Options for Psychologists and Their Patients

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee
on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

This letter is to provide information regarding LD 863, An Act To Have Maine Join the
Interstate Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact To Improve Telehealth Options for
Psychologists and Their Patients.

This bill would enact the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, an interstate compact
designed to facilitate the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-
face practice of psychology across state boundaries.

There have been an increasing number of court orders for community-based defendants who live
out of state at the time of the court order. To evaluate those out of state defendants, State
Forensics Services (SFS) either needs to find an examiner who is licensed in the state the
defendant is located, determine if that state allows temporary practice without a license by a
psychologist licensed in another state, or require the defendant to drive back to Maine for the
evaluation. This has been especially difficult during the pandemic. Some COVID related
exceptions have been helpful but is not a permanent solution.

This bill would allow SFS examiners to have a blanket allowance for temporary practice in
another state if that state is part of the Compact. Approximately fifteen states have already
enacted this legislation, with approximately fifteen more states pending legislation.

We wanted the Committee to be aware of the above information as it considers this bill
moving forward. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Monahan Pollard, PhD".

Jessica Monahan Pollard, PhD, Director
Office of Behavioral Health