

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Maine

IN SUPPORT OF

***LD 195 Resolve, Directing the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation To Study
a Voluntary Licensing System for General Contractors for Home Improvement and
Construction***

February 16, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

I am Daniel Diffin, P.E., a professional engineer with Sevee and Maher Engineers in Cumberland, Maine, and I am the Chair of the Legislative Committee for the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Maine. ACEC is a trade organization that represents engineering consulting companies of all types in Maine and nationwide. We are writing to support LD 195 because we believe that training and accountability for contractors in the home construction industry is good public policy, and it should be studied by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

ACEC members are engaged with the home construction industry at many levels and we include members who assist with the design, life safety review, and construction stages of these projects. As engineers, we value competency in our business partners, so we support a system that provides a way to set and meet professional and business standards.

As the State of Maine has adopted the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, it is important that all contractors understand the code and be able to demonstrate some level of proficiency. It is also important that homeowners and developers be able to identify contractors who have demonstrated a level of competence, and to access a database of qualified contractors.

There may be other useful public purposes for establishing licensing that the Department should investigate as well, such as enforcing insurance requirements, business contracting standards, and a streamlined grievance process.

We understand that Maine is in the minority of states that do not have some form of registration or licensing requirements for home contractors, so it is important to look at the other states that have adopted licensing systems to determine best practices for this industry in Maine.

Thank you for your attention, and we urge you to support this legislation.