



## **Testimony of Matt Marks in Support of LD 612**

*An Act To Recognize Occupational Licenses and Certifications from Other States To Attract New Residents and Businesses to Maine*

March 16, 2021 9:30 AM

Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Good Morning Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business. My name is Matt Marks; I am a Scarborough resident representing the Associated General Contractors of Maine today.

AGC Maine supports this bill's intent as we encourage experienced skilled trade workers to apply their craft here in Maine. While we know some states already have reciprocity for some crafts, designing a pathway that brings a licensed individual into compliance with a Maine license and making that pathway clear could be a substantial benefit for recruiting.

It's also essential that Maine hold to the standards developed by the existing licensing boards. Developing a mechanism to allow a licensed individual to work while conforming to Maine's standards should be a clear pathway.

Right now, for plumbing, Maine may issue a license to any person who holds a valid license in another state if 1) that state has licensing standards and experience requirements at least equivalent to Maine's and 2) if that state grants similar privileges to persons licensed in Maine. For electrical, Maine has agreements with Vermont and New Hampshire for Master Electricians. For journey workers in electrical, Maine has a reciprocity agreement with Idaho, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, and Wyoming.

We certainly defer to the Department for the details of processing conditional requests or meeting the requirements of this bill's intent.

We urge support of this bill. Thank you, I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted by,

Matt Marks, AGC Maine