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TESTIMONY OF

PENNY VAILLANCOURT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MAINE BOARD OF DENTAL PRACTICE

IN OPPOSITION TO LD 612

“An Act to Recognize Occupational Licenses and Certifications from Other States to Attract New Residents and Businesses to Maine” (Emergency)

Sponsored by Representative John Andrews

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

March 16, 2021 9:30 A.M.

Good morning Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Committee. My name is Penny Vaillancourt and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Board of Dental Practice. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on LD 612.

The Maine Board of Dental Practice (“the Board”) is in opposition to LD 612 as there are existing statutory provisions and licensure processes in place to for the Board to issue licenses without delay to individuals who qualify for a license as a dental professional. Those pathways are identified as “endorsement” and “temporary” licensure, which are described in more detail below:

1. Endorsement licensure process: 32 M.R.S. §18347 and Board Rules Chapter 11 – these licensure regulations authorize the Board to grant licensure to an individual who holds an active, valid license in another state. The Board delegates the daily review and approval of licensure applications to board staff to avoid unnecessary delays and/or barriers to licensure. Generally speaking, once all the application materials have been submitted and reviewed by board staff a licensee will be issued within days; and
2. Temporary licensure process: 10 M.R.S. §8003(5)(G) and various licensure chapters (Board Rules Chapters 2, 5 and 6) – these licensure regulations authorize the Board to grant temporary license to an individual who holds an active, valid license in another state without verification of education and examination. Rather, verification of an active, valid license is the substantive requirement for a temporary license. The temporary license process is rarely used as the endorsement licensure process is just as efficient and a full, unrestricted license is more desirable than that of a temporary license. Again, board staff manages this licensure process daily.

**LD 612 Testimony**

**03/16/2021**

**Page Two**

If the intent of LD 612 is to remove administrative barriers to license otherwise qualified individuals, then please note that the Board's existing regulations and processes described earlier accomplishes that very goal. However, if the purpose of the legislation is to grant licensure without the Board's authority to review an individual's qualifications on a case by case basis, then the Board is concerned that LD 612 removes a critical mandate of public protection.

The Board's statutory mandate pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 18321(1) is to protect the public by ensuring that individuals licensed to practice are competent and honest practitioners and that mission is accomplished in part by its existing licensure processes.

In conclusion, the Board respectfully opposes a licensure bill that appears either duplicative to existing licensure processes or appears to allow an individual to practice as a dental professional in Maine without regard to meeting the minimum standards for licensure identified in the Dental Practice Act.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would be happy to answer any questions now or attend work session.

Sincerely,

Penny Vaillancourt  
Executive Director