

LD 149 – “An act to facilitate licensure for credentialed individuals in jurisdictions outside of Maine.”

Dear Honored Members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

I'm the Founder and CEO of [IntWork](#) — a Maine-based diversity recruiting firm established in 2019 to stem the exodus of foreign-trained professionals from the state by guiding them toward Maine state licensure and matching them with Maine employers.

I'm speaking in favor of LD 149 that will allow the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation greater flexibility to waive documentation requirements, reduce fees, and grant provisional licenses.

At IntWork, I work with many Maine employers who are struggling to fill key roles that, when left open, impede their ability to do business.

While IntWork's primary work is matching employers with qualified (primarily STEM) professionals, we also partner with national and local licensure bodies to educate foreign-trained and minority engineers on how to pursue professional licensure in Maine. To this end, we've held local and nationwide webinars and in-person events that have significantly raised awareness of Maine state licensure(s) -- both among foreign-trained professionals already living in Maine and those who want to live and work in Maine.

As many immigrant professionals in Maine came here as refugees and asylum seekers who had to flee their country because of political conflict and lack of safety for them, their families, and others of their profession, they often have fear for their safety and/or hostility from their home country institutions. This makes securing documents from those institutions in their war-torn countries a significant barrier.

In cases where these documents can't be secured directly from the institutions, we've found ways to work with employers -- and licensure boards -- to assess these professionals' qualifications and experience and transition those candidates to successful jobs in Maine.

Costs of licensure; particularly the cost of licensure exam preparation courses, books, and credential evaluation, and licensure fees -- which collectively can total as much as \$2,500, is also a real barrier.

I ask you to support LD149 that will reduce some of these barriers for foreign-trained professionals pursuing licensure in Maine.

Thank you.

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 profile

[Maine's Hidden Talent and the Skills Gap](#)