



March 19, 2021

Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development,  
Economic Advancement and Business  
Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Attn: Clerk Jodie Breton

**Re: Support of LD 149, An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions**

Dear Chair Curry, Chair Roberts, and Members of the Committee,

The Association for Consulting Expertise supports LD 149, An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions.

ACE is an association of professional consultants and service providers, most of whom possess licenses or other accreditations. It recognizes the compelling need to attract expertise to the State of Maine and believes it to be a key element of the State's economic and workforce expansion, as reflected in Maine's Economic Development Strategy. It also recognizes that the State must make full use of the expertise that is already here, and work to keep it.

The Strategy proposes a variety of actions, including engaging workers in continuing education for career advancement (Action A4), increasing labor force participation of existing residents (Action B1), and attracting new workers from beyond Maine's borders (Action B2). LD 149 advances each of these strategic actions by authorizing the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Responsibility to modernize professional licensing laws to reflect Maine's changing demographics and workforce needs.

As the Committee is aware from the Commissioner's final report, in an era of increased worker mobility, state-by-state licensing requirements pose a challenge to individuals who may be licensed in one state but may wish to move to another. This challenge is also present for professionals from other countries, who may have desired expertise, but whose education and training do not square with local licensing requirements. In financial terms, the talent pool of foreign professionals already in Maine is an underperforming asset.

LD 149 addresses these challenges by:

- Granting the Commissioner flexibility to waive documentation requirements for otherwise qualified applicants. This is of particular concern for foreign professionals who may no

longer have access to transcripts, licenses or other documents evidencing professional training because of conflict in their countries of origin.

- Granting the Commissioner similar flexibility to waive or reduce licensing fees to reduce financial barriers for qualified applicants, so that they may practice at the professional level for which they trained as quickly as possible.
- Authorizing the Commissioner to grant provisional licenses, allowing trained professionals to practice on a limited basis and under supervision. The Commissioner would have authority to establish individualized paths to full licensure, designed to recognize the professional talents of the applicant while ensuring that their training and experience are on par with other Maine-licensed practitioners.
- Authorizing the Commissioner to accept funding from public and private sources to further the purpose of the statute, and by authorizing the Commissioner to make grants to nongovernmental entities, such as those experienced in working with new Americans, veterans, and other emerging demographics.

For these reasons, we recommend that the Committee refer LD 149 to the legislature for passage.

Sincerely,

/s/

Terry Johnson  
President, Association for Consulting Expertise

/s/

Carrie Green Yardley, Esq.  
Vice President, Association for Consulting  
Expertise  
Member, Commissioner's Working Group to  
Study Barriers to Credentialing