



Manufacturers Association of Maine

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On Behalf of the Manufacturers Association of Maine

Testimony In Support of

LD 149, *An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions*

March 23, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and distinguished member of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. The Manufacturers Association of Maine is an industry organization representing 400 business here in our great state. Our members employ 29,000 people in aerospace, metal, paper, marine/boat building, semiconductor, wood, textile, aquaculture, biotech, medical device, electronics, RF and wireless communications, plastics, composites and bioplastics, studio and food and beverage manufacturing.

We are pleased to offer our support of **LD 149, *An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions***. Attracting expertise to the State of Maine is a key element of the State's economic and workforce expansion, as reflected in Maine's Economic Development Strategy. The State must also 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:

- Granting the Commissioner flexibility to waive documentation requirements for otherwise qualified applicants.
- Granting the Commissioner similar flexibility to waive or reduce licensing fees to reduce financial barriers for qualified applicants.
- Authorizing the Commissioner to grant provisional licenses, allowing trained professionals to practice on a limited basis and under supervision with individualized paths to full licensure.
- 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



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nongovernmental entities, such as those experienced in working with new Americans, veterans, and other emerging demographics.

For these reasons, MAME supports this proposed legislative and urges an ought to pass vote on **LD 149** *An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions*. We thank you for your kind consideration.