



## **Testimony of Matt Marks in Support of LD 149**

### *An Act To Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions*

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 9:30 AM

Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

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

AGC Maine testified on similar bills that create a process for streamlining licensure from other jurisdictions. As we shared in other testimony, experienced construction professionals' demand will continue to grow as the market remains strong. Maine's construction market was ranked 5th in the country for job growth in our last national report. While the actual change was small, it has been highly encouraging to see the number employed exceed 30,000.

According to The National Center for Construction Education and Research, all crafts are in high demand; Maine's greatest need is for licensed electrical workers. We know the increase in renewable activity and related infrastructure for transmission and energy generation delivery that will grow in the next few years. In our recent survey, it demonstrated a need for all crafts and salaried personnel.

AGC Maine supports this bill. Like the other models that have been presented, we prefer a method that the Department believes will balance the protection of our licensing criteria and the welcoming of new craft workers into our jurisdiction. We are not suggesting that the Department adopt policies that would "devalue" the licensing process in Maine, instead create a system to help those licensed in other states or foreign authorities to become credentialed here while applying their skills.

Additionally, this bill provides the Department's ability to waive fees at their discretion and provisional grant licenses.

Respectfully submitted by,

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