



Testimony neither for nor against LD 149: ["An Act To Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions"](#)

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Nick Murray and I serve as policy analyst for Maine Policy Institute, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that advocates for individual liberty and economic freedom in Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD 149.

This bill would allow the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation much more discretion in waiving fees and documentation requirements for applicants from outside Maine, including those from foreign countries. For that reason, we support it.

While a statutory change (such as that in LD 612) is necessary to ensure that transplants to Maine are not being held back unnecessarily from participating in the economy, LD 149 could help some prospective Maine workers get here and begin to practice their craft.

That said, how will this bill help skilled workers with a license in their home state or country before they get to Maine? By shielding the approval process behind this extra layer of bureaucratic discretion, these workers will still unfortunately have to wait in order to practice their occupation. For them, this will barely affect the decision.

As well, this will create more work for OPOR staff, as they will be tasked with wading through different jurisdictions' credentialing requirements, to determine if those do not "reduce the requisite standards of proficiency for the licensed profession or occupation." Compared to the state's interest in ensuring public health and safety, this seems like an unnecessary demand on licensing staff time.

Ultimately, Maine needs the statutory implementation of universal reciprocity found in LD 612 to do the most good. If this committee moved that bill forward, LD 149 would not be necessary. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nick Murray
Maine Policy Institute

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