

The Maine Heritage Policy Center Testimony to Support LD 486

“An Act To Improve Efficiencies in Cosmetology Licensing”

Senator Herbig, Representative Larsen-Daughtry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Adam Crepeau. I serve as the policy analyst for The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 486.

The Maine Heritage Policy Center overwhelmingly supports this bill. The current statutes surrounding occupational licensing in the state are convoluted. Oftentimes, it is difficult for individuals to relocate and work in their field in Maine if the state’s requirements to acquire a license or certificate are more stringent than the state from which they moved.

Encouraging occupational licensing reciprocity in Maine is important to strengthen interstate mobility. Women in the United States are more likely to be affected by lack of reciprocity, since they are more likely to hold certification or licensure than employed men.¹ As of May 2017, there were 1,160 people who were employed as hairdressers, hair stylists, and cosmetologists in the state of Maine.² The Maine Heritage Policy center believes there is room for growth in all licensed occupations in this state.

This bill would hopefully help encourage growth in this profession from individuals relocating from out of state. The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ projections show that there should be approximately 13 percent growth, or 80,100 more employed individuals added to the workforce in this industry in the United States between 2016 and 2026.³ We want to attract these individuals to Maine by enabling them to relocate here and immediately begin practicing in their profession.

While we seriously question the health and safety risks that necessitate a cosmetology license in Maine, we believe LD 486 is a step in the right direction. We urge the committee to support measures that reform licensing in occupations that do not pose legitimate health and safety risks to the public. To that end, we urge the committee to support LD 486. Thank you.

¹<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/545815dce4b0d75692c341a8/t/59e0cd6ef5e231eea5471593/1507904882586/Occupational>

² https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_me.htm

³ <https://data.bls.gov/projections/occupationProj>