

## **The Maine Heritage Policy Center Testimony in Support of LD 679**

### **“An Act Regarding the Licensing of Funeral Practitioners”**

Senator Herbig, Representative Larsen-Daughtry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Adam Crepeau and I serve as the policy analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 679.

The Maine Heritage Policy Center overwhelmingly supports licensing reciprocity in Maine. While we are in favor of repealing occupational licensing requirements for professions that do not concern the health and safety of the public, this bill is certainly a step in the right direction to ease requirements for individuals seeking a permanent license and have already been licensed in other states.

According to Title 32, Chapter 21, Subchapter 3, a person must be at least 18 years of age, have completed a course approved by the State Board of Funeral Service, and served as a practitioner trainee for no less than one year (2,000 hours) under the personal supervision of a person licensed for the practice of funeral service<sup>1</sup> The requirements to become licensed as a funeral practitioner vary among states, making the decision to relocate more complicated for individuals who perform this work.

In North Dakota, individuals seeking a license to be a funeral practitioner need to perform 25 embalmings and ten funerals after completing formal training to become licensed.<sup>2</sup> An individual could finish these requirements in under one year, practice the profession for several years in North Dakota and then decide they want to move to Maine. Upon arrival, they may be subject to additional requirements to become licensed, despite having been in the profession for several years in another state. This bill seeks to alleviate these additional requirements for a permanent license by recognizing the formal training and experience individuals have earned in other states.

The Maine Heritage Policy Centers argues that the required apprenticeship that must be a minimum of 12 months and at least 2,000 hours is arbitrary and does not define how well individuals can perform in their trade. Ultimately, it is the consumer who decides how well the provider of a service performs. With the invention of the internet and online platforms such as Yelp, it is easier now than ever to research, avoid subpar service and help others do the same. Therefore, it should be reiterated that all license requirements need to be revisited to see if these professions can be regulated by the free market.

For these reasons, The Maine Heritage Policy Center urges the committee to vote, “Ought to Pass” on LD 679. Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/32/title32sec1501.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nfda.org/Portals/0/NFDAORG/Education/Regulations-in-Licensing-2017.pdf>;  
<https://www.legis.nd.gov/information/acdata/pdf/25-02-02.pdf>