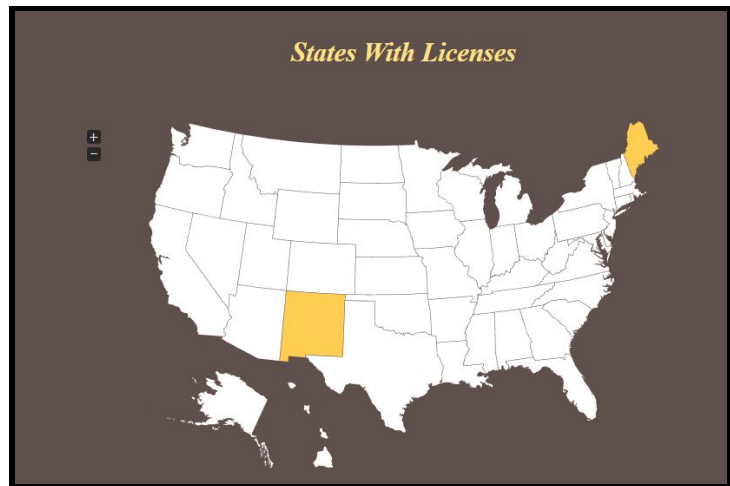


The Maine Heritage Policy Center Testimony to Support LD 884

“An Act To Repeal the Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice”

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Adam Crepeau. I serve as the policy analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center and am here to testify in favor of LD 884, “An Act To Repeal the Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice.”

The Maine Heritage Policy Center overwhelmingly supports repealing the Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice. This board was established “to recognize the professional qualifications of dietitians and dietetic technicians and to assure the availability to the public of information regarding those who hold themselves out to be dietitians and dietetic technicians.”¹ While this board may have been created with good intentions in 1985, there is no need to continue their service to the state of Maine.



In 2013, the Maine Office of Policy and Management (OPM) recommended that the Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice be discontinued to allow staff in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to focus on other boards that concern the health and safety of the public.² OPM’s recommendation stated that discontinuation of the board “would not jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of Maine citizens.” As of the publishing of that document, no consumer initiated complaints had been filed through the board. In addition, the board accepted the minutes from a June 2014 meeting when they last met in September 2018, showing they had not met for over four years.³ Due to the inactivity of the board and lack of complaints from

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/dietitians/purpose.html>

² https://digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1001&context=ogvn_docs

³ https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/dietitians/pub/2018/september_7_2018_agenda.pdf

consumers, the Board of Licensure of Dietetic Practice is no longer necessary to perform their aforementioned purpose.

The only states that license dietetic technicians are Maine and New Mexico.⁴ Not only is licensing dietetic technicians uncommon, but the fee collected to administer the program (\$150) discourages individuals from entering this profession. According to the Institute for Justice, dietetic technicians have the 15th most burdensome licensing requirements of the 102 occupations studied in their report.⁵ However, the requirements are only burdensome in the states that license these individuals.

Please ask yourselves this question: Why does the State of Maine license dieticians and dietetic technicians? The free market is well equipped to handle this profession. With the advent of the internet, it is easier now than ever to find online reviews of dietitians and dietetic technicians to see if they are legitimate or not.

Simply put, the Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice does not serve a purpose in the state of Maine and certainly does not contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the public. For those reasons, The Maine Heritage Policy Center urges the committee to vote, "Ought to Pass" on LD 884. Thank you.

⁴ <https://ij.org/report/license-work-2/ltw-occupation-profiles/ltw2-dietetic-technician/>

⁵ <https://ij.org/report/license-work-2/ltw-occupation-profiles/ltw2-dietetic-technician/>