



***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE***

*March 5, 2020*

*David Lehman, Commissioner  
Department of Economic and Community Development*

*Senate Bill 13: AN Act Expanding Economic Activity in Licensed  
Occupations*

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Good afternoon Senator Maroney, Representative D’Agostino, Senator Witkos, Representative Cheeseman and members of the General Law committee. My name is David Lehman, and I am commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I appreciate this opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 13: An Act Expanding Economic Activity in Licensed Occupations.

As you know, our mission at DECD is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state’s economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting Connecticut’s arts, cultural and tourism assets.

Central to this legislation is the provision to make licenses more portable between states. This is very important from an economic development perspective as it increases our attractiveness to prospective workers who may be considering a move to Connecticut. It is equally beneficial to in-state employers looking to recruit licensed professionals from outside our borders. Creating an application procedure that is easy to understand and consistent across agencies and occupations, rather than specific to each licensed profession, will aid the state and its employers as we seek to convince new residents that Connecticut will welcome them.

These common-sense reforms make it easier to attract talent and will result in increased economic development activity in Connecticut, creating more jobs and more vibrant communities for our state’s residents. It is for these reasons I enthusiastically support Senate Bill 13.

Thank you for raising this important piece of legislation.