

2026 MAA Update

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2025 Arborist exam data

- 189 individuals were scheduled to take the exam(s)
157 passed
10 did not pass
6 passed one and not the other
16 no show, no call

173 people took the following exams:
31 Landscape only
64 Utility only
78 Both exams



2025 Licensed Arborist Survey Results

237 responses submitted

Are you a currently licensed arborist in the State of Maine?



Treemap

Bar



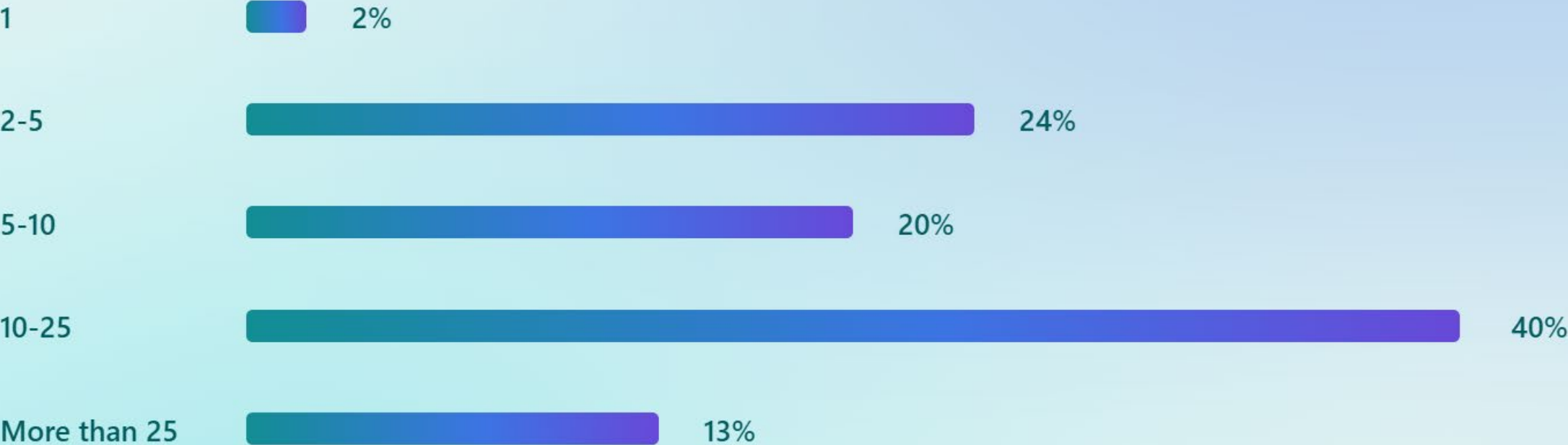
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2025 Licensed Arborist Survey Results

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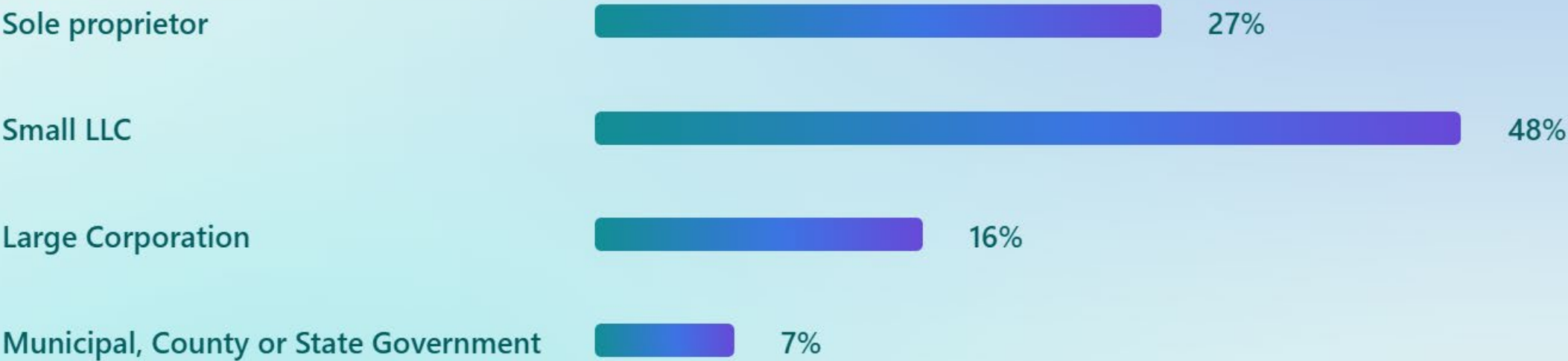
How many years have you been licensed as an arborist in Maine?



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237 responses submitted

What type of business do you own or work for?



Treemap

Bar



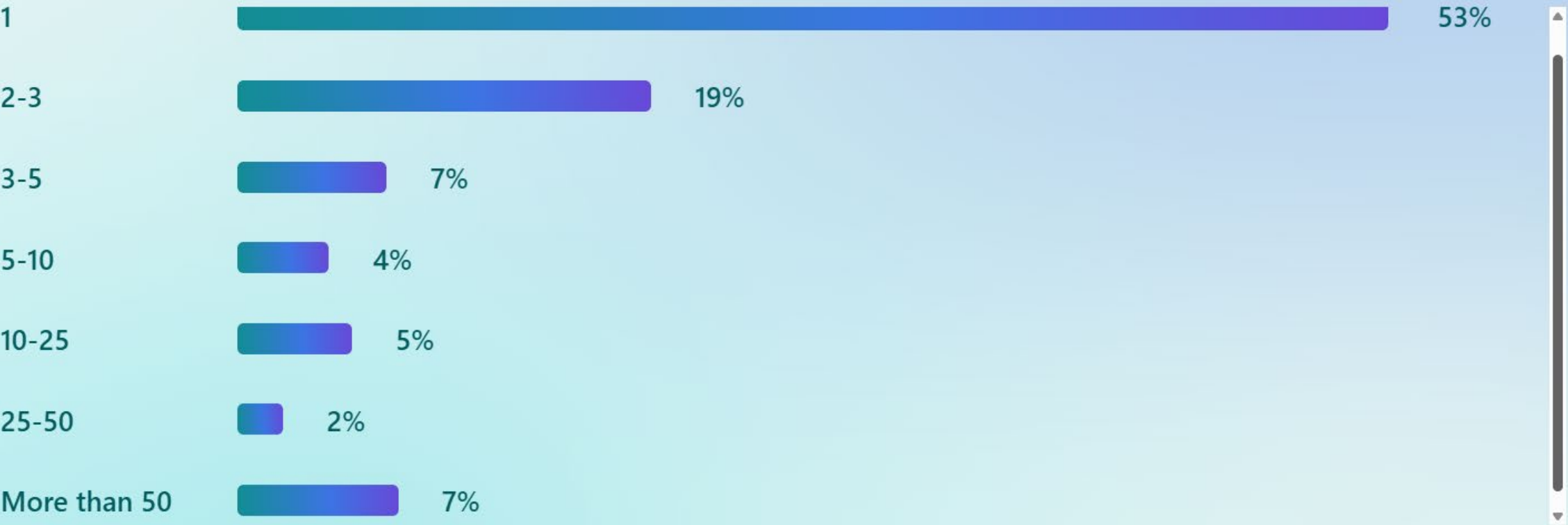
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2025 Licensed Arborist Survey Results

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How many licensed arborists are employed by your organization?



Treemap

Bar



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2025 Licensed Arborist Survey Results

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Have you ever witnessed unlicensed individuals doing arborist work (treating a tree off the ground or removing trees in situations where people, utilities, or structures are at risk)? If...

83% said yes

"Yes york county has many tree cutters that are not Arborest's. "

"Yes, I have seen at least 20 individuals"

"Yes"

"Approx 6"

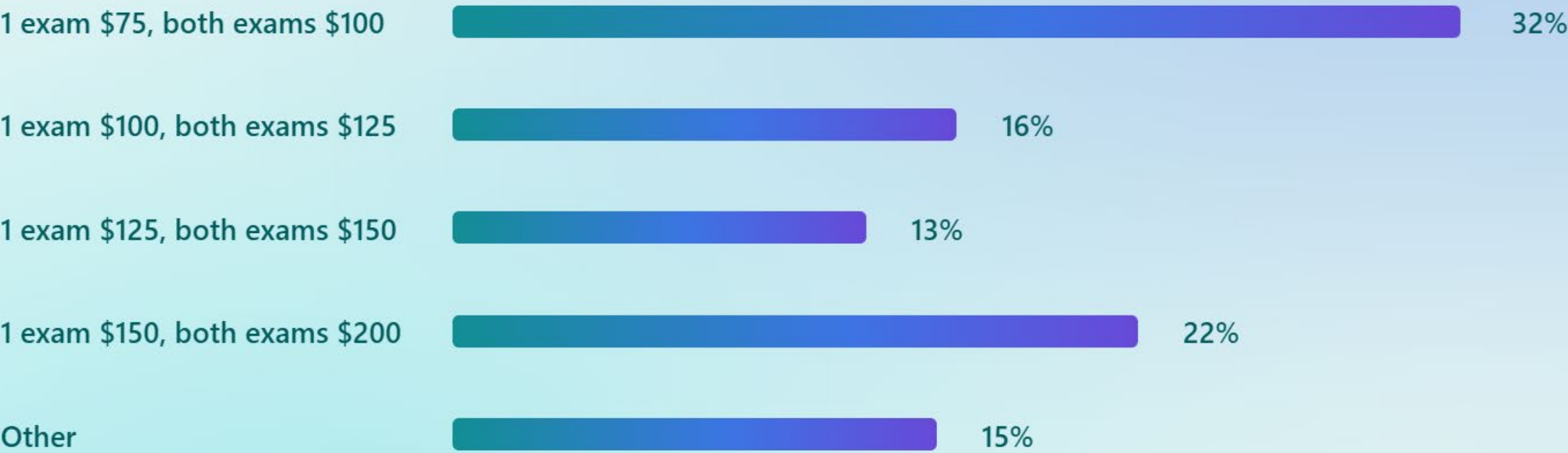
"Yes 5 - 10"



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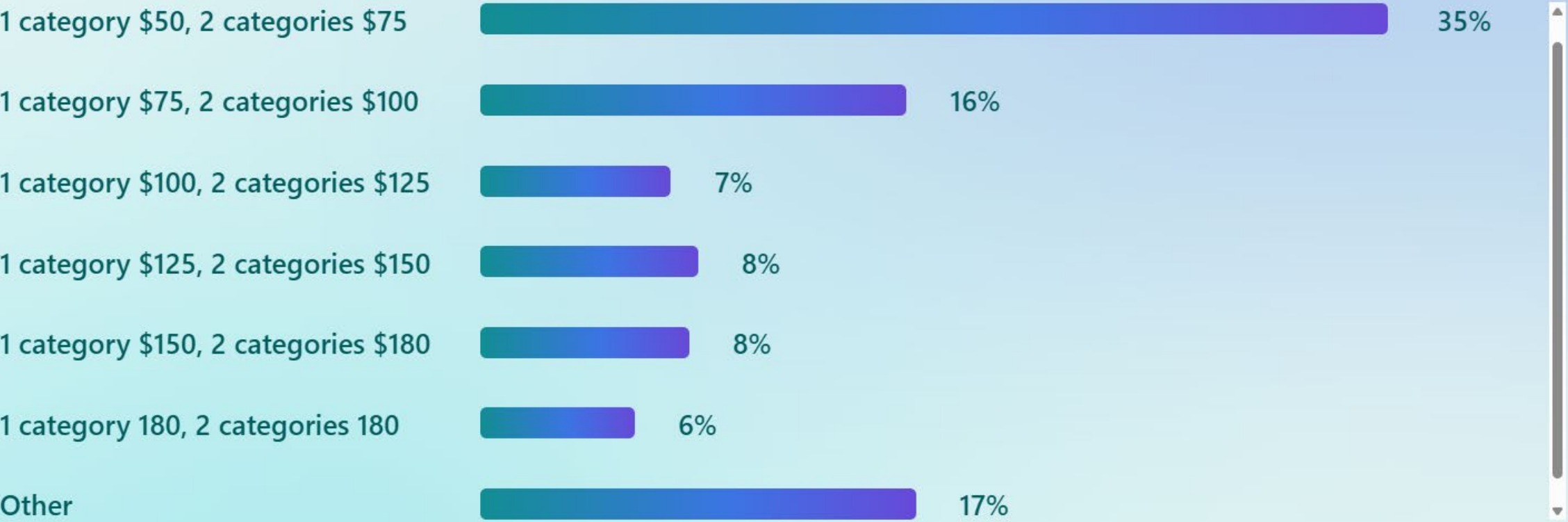
If DACF were to propose raising the annual license fee to improve the Arborist Licensing & Enforcement Program, what is the highest exam fee level you would support? (The current...



2025 Licensed Arborist Survey Results

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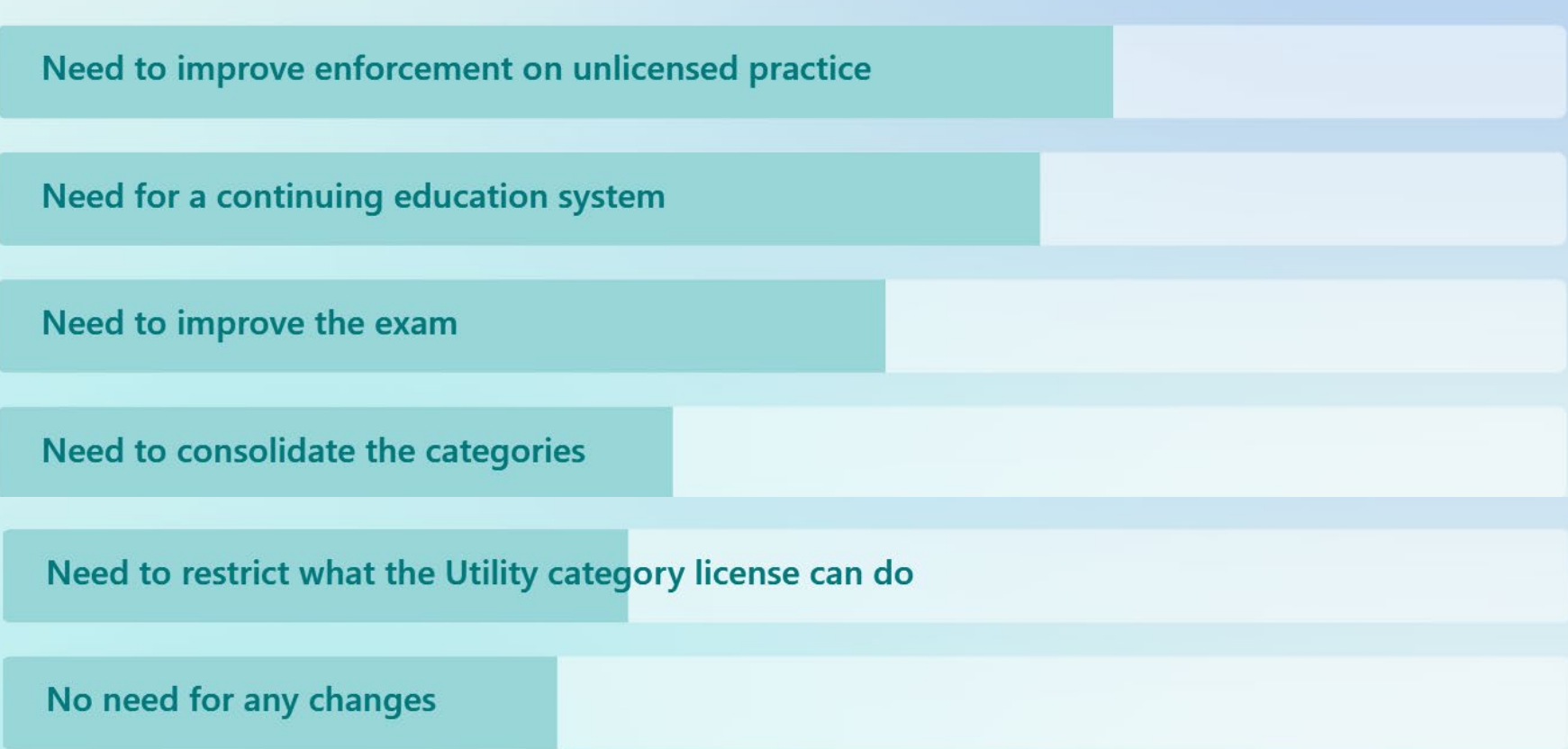
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Please rank the following issues with the highest priority on top.



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237 responses submitted

Are there other comments you would like to provide to help the DACF improve the Arborist Program?

"The only time i have ever used my Licence # was to work for the town which required a Arborest. Other then that you get enough Education cutting trees every day. No need for more Goverment Requirem"

"ISA Exam and CEUs are very well thought out, respected and science based. A great role model."

"A suggestion to add something to the exam or study ma-

. . . " . . . " . . . " . . . "



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2025 survey additional comments

Comment	Number of Individuals
CEU Program	31
Enforce current rules	26
Don't raise fees	20
Improve exams - add chipper, climbing & bucket safety	16
Closed book exam	11
Improve public outreach	9
Require ISA exam	5
Add shoreland zoning rules to training	5
EHAP required for Utility Arborists	4
Consolidate license categories	4
Should be extreme penalties/fines	3
Add business license	3

2025 survey additional comments

Comment	Number of Individuals
Add business license	3
Online portal for fees and renewals	3
Require experience/apprenticeships/unionized	3
Revoke license if uninsured	2
OSHA inspections/drug testing & BG checks	2
Hold utilities liable for hiring unlicensed arborists	2
Fund enforcement position from fines	1
Increase exam fees	1
Offer more exams with unlimited numbers and retest sooner	1

2025 survey additional comments

Comment	Number of Individuals
Require arborist license for tree injection	1
Provide insurance rate incentives for CEUs	1
CLP training for arborists	1
Community college arborist class	1
Add fee for out of state tree companies	1
Reduce the exemptions from licensing	1

Potential “improvements”

What is the issue?	How could it be improved?	How is it implemented?
Unlicensed practice	Tighten the statutory definition of an arborist and clarify the authority to enforce the law when someone is found practicing without a license.	Submit a bill to update Title 7, Chapter 404, Sections 2173 & 2179. Additionally, we will have to amend 01-001, Chapter 751 Section 9 (A).
Continuing education program	Provide for a position that can develop a program similar to the BPC or Nutrient Management Program	Submit a bill to update Title 7, Chapter 404, Section 2181, as well as rulemaking to establish the CE system, and funding for a Professional Licensing Supervisor position.

Potential “improvements”

What is the issue?	How could it be improved?	How is it implemented?
Enforcement of licensing requirements.	Provide for a position that can investigate complaints.	Submit a bill to update Title 7, Chapter 404, Sections 2173 and 2179, as well as rulemaking to allow investigation of unlicensed persons performing arborist duties, and funding for a Professional Licensing Supervisor position.
Licensing firms or businesses.	Add a firm license requirement similar to the BPC rules.	Submit a bill to update Title 7, Chapter 404, Section 2179, as well as rulemaking to establish the new firm license standards and fees.

Potential “improvements”

What is the issue?	How could it be improved?	How is it implemented?
Repealing some exemptions from licensing.	Define “on-site” supervision, require a license for government employees doing routine arborist work, and remove the exemption for highway and general contractors and their subcontractors.	Submit a bill to update Title 7, Chapter 404, Section 2174, as well as rulemaking to define “on-site.”

What should we do?

- Even without any changes, we will need to raise license and/or exam fees slightly since the budget is heading into the red because of higher study guide costs and increases in personnel costs.
- The current fee structure has been the same for 30 years.
- To add CEUs, better enforcement, and improved exams, it will require raising a significant sum.
- What is the pleasure of the arborist profession?

2025 Complaints and inquiries

- 1 complaint from a CEO about cutting in the shoreland zone
- 1 complaint about a municipal arborist who allegedly wasn't removing a hazard tree
- 1 complaint about an unlicensed person putting up advertising signs and door hangers
- 4 complaints about unlicensed practice
- 4 complaints about Facebook ads.

How to file an arborist complaint

1. First, verify that the individual does not have an arborist license by checking the list of <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/arborist/ArboristList.shtml> or by contacting the division at (207) 287-4515. Also, confirm that the individual is engaged in work or advertising work for which they must be licensed.

Acceptable terms for advertising non-licensed arborist work:

- **Pruning, pest management, planting & fertilizing, stump grinding, chipping, bucket truck, house lots, and wood lots cleared**

Unacceptable terms for advertising non-licensed arborist work:

- **Tree removal, tree work, climbing service, vista & view clearing, complete tree care, cabling, limbing, difficult tree removal**

How to file an arborist complaint

1. A person filing a complaint must submit the complaint in writing and provide their contact information* (name, address, and phone number), and should provide at least one of the following:
 - Your contact information (name, address, phone number, and email address), so we can contact you if we need more information or have questions about the complaint.
 - Contact information, including at least the name and current mailing address for the person named in the complaint,

How to file an arborist complaint

- Written documentation indicating that an individual is advertising or performing arborist work. This might be in the form of:
 - a **business card, paper advertisement, or truck logo**, or
 - Photographic documentation of persons engaged in arborist work. Pictures must show them actually doing the work without a supervising arborist in the area, or
 - Written report of work being done on site. Include date, location, type of work being done, or
 - A copy of a signed contract indicating certain work was to be completed that required an arborist license.

How to file an arborist complaint

1. Send your complaint and documentation to Arborist Program, 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, or email the debbie.davis@maine.gov.

