

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 868**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul R. Heroux***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act improving access to rehabilitation counseling.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/12/2015</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2015</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2015</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>2/4/2015</i>

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By Mr. Heroux of Attleboro, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 868) of Paul R. Heroux and others for legislation to include licensed rehabilitation counselors in the definition of licensed mental health professionals. Financial Services.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 921 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act improving access to rehabilitation counseling.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 22 of Chapter 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the final paragraph and inserting in place thereof  
3 the following paragraph:—

4           For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
5 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
6 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
7 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed rehabilitation counselor.

8 SECTION 2. Section 47B of Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
9 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the second paragraph in subsection (i) and  
10 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

11 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
12 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
13 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
14 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed rehabilitation counselor.

15 SECTION 3. Section 8A of Chapter 176A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
16 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the second paragraph in subsection (i) and  
17 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

18 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
19 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
20 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
21 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed rehabilitation counselor.

22 SECTION 4. Section 4A of Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
23 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the second paragraph in subsection (i) and  
24 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

25 For the purposes of this section, “licensed mental health professional” shall mean a  
26 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
27 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
28 mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed rehabilitation counselor.

29           SECTION 5. Section 4M of Chapter 176G of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
30 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the second paragraph in subsection (i) and  
31 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:— For the purposes of this section, “licensed  
32 mental health professional” shall mean a licensed physician who specializes in the practice of  
33 psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed  
34 mental health counselor, a licensed nurse mental health clinical specialist, or a licensed  
35 rehabilitation counselor.