

HOUSE No. 3915

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Andres X. Vargas and Ryan M. Hamilton

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 expanding licensure opportunity for school counselors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>5/18/2023</i>
<i>Ryan M. Hamilton</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>5/23/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3915

By Representatives Vargas of Haverhill and Hamilton of Methuen, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Andres X. Vargas and Ryan M. Hamilton relative to expanding licensure opportunities for school counselors. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act expanding licensure opportunity for school counselors.

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. The first paragraph of section 165 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out clause (3) and inserting
3 in place thereof the following clause:-

4 (3) demonstrates to the board, the successful completion of a masters degree in a relevant
5 field from an educational institution licensed by the state in which it is located and meets
6 national standards for granting of a masters degree with a subspecialization in marriage and
7 family therapy, rehabilitation counseling, counseling, or a relevant subspecialization approved by
8 the board; provided, however, that all relevant graduate coursework credits, as determined by the
9 board, that an individual earns that count towards the credit requirement for professional
10 licensure as a school counselor by the department of elementary and secondary education shall
11 be applied towards this educational requirement for applicants seeking licensure as a mental
12 health counselor, including credits earned in a graduate program that is less than 60 credits. To

13 be eligible for licensure, an applicant must have 2 additional years of supervised clinical
14 experience in the relevant field in: (i) either a clinic or hospital licensed by the department of
15 mental health or accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals or in an
16 equivalent center or institute; (ii) in a school setting as a school counselor licensed by the
17 department of elementary and secondary education; or (iii) under the direction of a supervisor
18 approved by the board. For purposes of this clause, "Supervision" shall be defined as no less than
19 200 hours of supervised clinical experience, including experience as a school counselor licensed
20 by the department of elementary and secondary education, at least 100 hours of which shall
21 consist of individual supervision with a clinician who has expertise in marriage and family
22 therapy, rehabilitation counseling, school counseling, educational psychology, or counseling and
23 who holds a masters degree in social work, marriage and family therapy, rehabilitation
24 counseling, educational psychology, counseling or an equivalent field or holds a doctorate degree
25 in psychology, or a medical degree with a subspecialization in psychiatry; provided, however,
26 that experience as a school counselor shall only apply towards the supervised experience
27 requirement for applicants who are seeking licensure as a mental health counselor;

28 SECTION 2. Said section 165 of said chapter 112, as so appearing, is hereby further
29 amended by inserting after the word "section", in line 30, the following words:- provided,
30 however, that a school counselor shall be qualified to sit for the written or oral examination for
31 licensure as a mental health counselor.