

SENATE No. 210

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Pavel M. Payano

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:	
<i>Pavel M. Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>4/13/2023</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>4/27/2023</i>

SENATE No. 210

By Mr. Payano, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 210) of Pavel M. Payano for legislation to expand licensure opportunity 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.