

**SENATE . . . . . No. 649**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Anne M. Gobi*

*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 relative to increasing consumer access to licensed rehabilitation counselors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>6/1/2023</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>11/7/2023</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 649**

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By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 649) of Anne M. Gobi and Hannah Kane for legislation relative to increase consumer access to licensed rehabilitation counselors. Financial Services.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 677 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act relative to increasing consumer access to licensed rehabilitation 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. Section 22 of chapter 32A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by  
2 striking out the last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

3           For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a  
4 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
5 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
6 mental health clinical specialist, a licensed marriage and family therapist or a licensed  
7 rehabilitation counselor within the lawful scope of practice for such therapist.

8           SECTION 2. Section 47B of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
9 striking out the next to last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

10 For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a  
11 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
12 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
13 mental health clinical specialist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, or a licensed  
14 rehabilitation counselor within the lawful scope of practice for such therapist.

15 SECTION 3. Section 8A of chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
16 striking out the next to last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

17 For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a  
18 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
19 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
20 mental health clinical specialist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, or a licensed  
21 rehabilitation counselor within the lawful scope of practice for such therapist.

22 SECTION 4. Section 4A of 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out  
23 the next to last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

24 For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a  
25 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
26 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
27 mental health clinical specialist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, or a licensed  
28 rehabilitation counselor within the lawful scope of practice for such therapist.

29 SECTION 5. Section 4M of 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
30 out the next to last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

31           For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a  
32 licensed physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a  
33 licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse  
34 mental health clinical specialist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, or a licensed  
35 rehabilitation counselor within the lawful scope of practice for such therapist.