

SENATE No. 283

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>3/28/2025</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>4/3/2025</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>4/7/2025</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>4/24/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>5/19/2025</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>6/1/2025</i>

SENATE No. 283

By Mr. Payano, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 283) of Pavel M. Payano, Joan B. Lovely, Jason M. Lewis, Brendan P. Crighton and other members of the Senate for legislation to expand licensure opportunity for school counselors. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 210 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

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 2022 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 specialized instructional support personnel, which is inclusive of school counselors,
11 school social workers, adjustment counselors, and school psychologists, by the department of
12 elementary and secondary education shall be applied towards this educational requirement for
13 applicants seeking licensure as a mental health counselor, including credits earned in a graduate
14 program that is less than 60 credits. To be eligible for licensure, an applicant must have 2
15 additional years of supervised clinical experience in the relevant field in: (i) either a clinic or
16 hospital licensed by the department of mental health or accredited by the Joint Commission on
17 Accreditation of Hospitals or in an equivalent center or institute; (ii) in a school setting as a
18 specialized instructional support personnel licensed by the department of elementary and
19 secondary education; or (iii) under the direction of a supervisor approved by the board. For
20 purposes of this clause, "Supervision" shall be defined as no less than 200 hours of supervised
21 clinical experience, including experience as a specialized instructional support personnel
22 licensed by the department of elementary and secondary education, at least 100 hours of which
23 shall consist of individual supervision with a clinician who has expertise in marriage and family
24 therapy, rehabilitation counseling, school counseling, educational psychology, social work, or
25 counseling and who holds a masters degree in social work, marriage and family therapy,
26 rehabilitation counseling, educational psychology, counseling or an equivalent field or holds a
27 doctorate degree in psychology, or a medical degree with a subspecialization in psychiatry;
28 provided, however, that experience as specialized instructional support personnel shall only
29 apply towards the supervised experience requirement for applicants who are seeking licensure as
30 a mental health counselor;

31 SECTION 2. Said section 165 of said chapter 112, as so appearing, is hereby further
32 amended by inserting after the word "section", in line 30, the following words:- provided,

- 33 however, that a school counselor shall be qualified to sit for the written or oral examination for
- 34 licensure as a mental health counselor.