

**SENATE . . . . . No. 210**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Pavel M. Payano***

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*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.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Pavel M. Payano*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Essex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 210**

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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.

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**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 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.