

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2473

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, October 19, 2023.

The committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 210) of Pavel M. Payano for legislation to expand licensure opportunity for school counselors; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3915) of Andres X. Vargas and Ryan M. Hamilton relative to expanding licensure opportunities for school counselors, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2473).

For the committee,  
John J. Cronin

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2473**

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**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 2020 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 two additional years of supervised clinical  
14 experience in the relevant field in: either a clinic or hospital licensed by the department of mental

15 health or the department of public health or accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation  
16 of Hospitals or in an equivalent center or institute under the direction of a supervisor approved  
17 by the board. For purposes of this clause, "Supervision" shall be defined as no less than two  
18 hundred hours of supervised clinical experience, at least one hundred hours of which shall  
19 consist of individual supervision with a clinician who has expertise in marriage and family  
20 therapy, rehabilitation counseling, educational psychology, or counseling and who holds a  
21 masters degree in social work, marriage and family therapy, rehabilitation counseling,  
22 educational psychology, counseling or an equivalent field or holds a doctorate degree in  
23 psychology, or a medical degree with a subspecialization in psychiatry. A maximum one  
24 hundred hours may be completed in a school setting as a school counselor licensed by the  
25 department of elementary and secondary education; provided, however, that experience as a  
26 school counselor shall only apply towards the supervised experience requirement for applicants  
27 who are seeking licensure as a mental health counselor; and provided, however, that experience  
28 as a school counselor may be supervised by an individual who holds a masters in school  
29 counseling and is duly licensed as a mental health counselor;

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