

SENATE BILL 251

F1, J1

5lr1209
CF 5lr0907

By: **Senators Pugh, Bates, Benson, Conway, Feldman, Kagan, King, Lee, Mathias, Montgomery, Muse, Nathan-Pulliam, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board – School Counselors –**
3 **Certification Requirement**
4 **(Lauryn’s Law)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to
6 require, beginning on or after a certain date, certain applicants for certification as a
7 school counselor to have successfully completed a certain course regarding the
8 recognition of, initial screening for, and response to emotional and behavioral
9 distress in students and other individuals; requiring a certain course to include
10 certain information; requiring the Board to adopt certain regulations; and generally
11 relating to a certification requirement for school counselors by the Professional
12 Standards and Teacher Education Board.

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Education
15 Section 6–704.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Education**

21 **6–704.1.**

22 **(A) BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2016, THE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE**
23 **AN APPLICANT FOR CERTIFICATION AS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR TO HAVE**
24 **SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN EVIDENCE–BASED COURSE THAT PROVIDES THE**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL STANDARDS REGARDING THE RECOGNITION OF, INITIAL
2 SCREENING FOR, AND RESPONSE TO EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN
3 STUDENTS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING INDICATORS OF SUBSTANCE
4 ABUSE, VIOLENCE, MENTAL ILLNESS, AND YOUTH SUICIDE.

5 (B) THE COURSE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION
6 SHALL INCLUDE:

7 (1) STRATEGIES FOR HELPING AN INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING A
8 MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS;

9 (2) AN INTRODUCTION TO THE RISK FACTORS AND WARNING SIGNS
10 FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS;

11 (3) INFORMATION OF EVIDENCE-SUPPORTED TREATMENT AND
12 SELF-HELP STRATEGIES; AND

13 (4) IDENTIFYING PROFESSIONAL HELP AND OTHER SUPPORTS AND
14 RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS.

15 (C) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
16 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2015.