

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 654

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1
2 RELATING TO SCHOOL COUNSELORS; AMENDING SECTION 33-1212, IDAHO CODE, TO AL-
3 LOW FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS TO WORK AS SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND TO MAKE
4 A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EF-
5 FECTIVE DATE.

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Section 33-1212, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
8 amended to read as follows:

9 33-1212. SCHOOL COUNSELORS. (1) In recognition of the diverse and
10 complicated demands upon students, their families and the public school sys-
11 tem, the legislature finds that counseling offered at Idaho public schools
12 should be flexible and responsive. For purposes of counselor services, a
13 counselor shall be defined as an individual who meets the requirements of an
14 approved program of graduate study in school guidance and counseling from a
15 college or university approved by the Idaho state board of education and who
16 meets the requirements of rules adopted by the board, or an individual li-
17 censed as provided by chapter 32, title 54, Idaho Code, as a certified social
18 worker or otherwise licensed as a licensed professional counselor or li-
19 icensed clinical professional counselor as provided by chapter 34, title 54,
20 Idaho Code, and who meets the requirements of the state board of education.

21 (2) School counselors spend most of their time in direct service to and
22 contact with students. School counselors' duties are focused on the overall
23 delivery of guidance, individual student planning and responsive services.
24 A small amount of their time is devoted to indirect services called system
25 support.

26 (3) The state board of education shall adopt rules to implement the pro-
27 visions of this section, and shall specifically provide that certified so-
28 cial workers, licensed professional counselors, and licensed clinical pro-
29 fessional counselors meet the requirement for school counselors. A local
30 school district may request a waiver from the state board of education of the
31 counselor/counseling requirements, provided that data is submitted to and
32 annually approved by the state department of education to substantiate that
33 the intent of the board's rules in these areas is being met by an alternative
34 program model.

35 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
36 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
37 July 1, 2022.