



Testimony
House Bill 1217
House Education Committee
January 18, 2021; 3:00 p.m.
Education Standards and Practice Board

Good afternoon Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin and I am the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board. I am here today to provide information on ESPB practices which align with HB 1217. ESPB currently issues a “restricted” K-12 license to applicants with a bachelor’s degree seeking to be counselors through an alternate access license. With an alternate access license, individuals work with ESPB, the Department of Public Instruction, and a college to become licensed while finishing their counseling degree. The license is issued for a year at a time contingent upon verification of completion of part of their program of study and at the request of a school administrator (67.1-02-02-02). We do not require they have a bachelor’s degree in counseling, as in line 8 of the bill, but instead an alternate access license could be issued to individuals with degrees in psychology, social work, or other related areas. As a point of clarification, there are currently no state approved undergraduate counseling degrees or programs.

ESPB has issued 11 alternate access licenses for school counseling this school year.

This concludes my testimony and I stand for any questions.