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Senate Bill 238 – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 18, 2026, 1pm

FAVORABLE

The BTU proudly represents thousands of educators, school support staff, and education professionals working in Baltimore City public schools.

We are strongly in support of the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. School psychologists are essential contributors to both academic and behavioral outcomes. Their work includes conducting assessments to identify learning needs and disabilities and supporting positive behavior interventions and mental health initiatives. In addition, School psychologists work directly with students, families, teachers, and administrators to improve . school climate and respond to crises and facilitating trauma-informed practicesThey are often on the front lines of identifying concerns such as anxiety, depression, and learning challenges — areas that have only grown in urgency in recent years.

Despite the clear and vital role of school psychologists, schools across Maryland are experiencing significant shortages of qualified professionals. These shortages are driven by several factors, including a low number of school psychologists graduating from Maryland colleges and universities. Current state-by-state licensure requirements can make it difficult for school psychologists to relocate or serve multiple jurisdictions — particularly in areas near state borders or for districts seeking flexible staffing solutions. These challenges directly impact students: delayed evaluations, limited access to mental health supports, and fewer resources for preventive interventions.

The School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact will allow licensed school psychologists to practice across state lines without redundant licensing barriers, making it easier for districts, especially those in underserved or rural areas, to recruit talent. By broadening the pool of eligible professionals, schools can fill vacancies more quickly and reduce the time students wait for essential evaluations and supports. Removing licensure barriers helps retain experienced school psychologists who may otherwise leave the profession or relocate to states with more flexible licensing.

Maryland’s students need timely, skilled, and compassionate support now more than ever. The nationwide shortage of school psychologists, coupled with rising academic and mental health needs underscores the urgency of removing unnecessary barriers to recruitment and retention. For these reasons, the Baltimore Teachers Union urges a favorable report on the Compact.