



Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA) strongly supports **House Bill 0959 School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact**. School psychologists (SPs) are uniquely trained to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. In collaboration with families and other school staff, we help create safe and supportive learning environments in which all students can thrive.

The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist for every 500 students; however Maryland is only able to provide 1 SP for every 1,053 students. In addition to falling short of NASP recommended staffing levels, Maryland also has less school psychologists per student than neighboring states such as Delaware (1:815), New Jersey (1:660), New York (1:545), Connecticut (1:475), and Massachusetts (1:662). This is a significant shortage that negatively impacts our students and communities. Passing the compact will help address this shortage.

The Interstate Compact for School Psychologists simply provides licensure mobility in member states while upholding a high standard of practice. This compact is similar to PSYPACT, which provides the same benefit to licensed psychologists in Maryland and over 30 other states. Attracting more SPs to Maryland will be good for our students, school communities, and the economy.

For SPs themselves, **House Bill 0959** reduces the financial and administrative burden associated with meeting licensure requirements when moving states, and it enables SPs to quickly begin providing services that will help students. Importantly, this legislation benefits our military families and enables military connected SPs to easily continue in their career following a permanent change of station.

Because of the above, MSPA respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 0959: a simple way to help address the school psychologist shortage. If we can provide any further information or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mspaonline.org or Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us or 410-322-2320.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley T Leposa

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Co-Chair MSPA Legislative Committee

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Interstate Compact MSPA Letter of Support

Final Audit Report

2025-02-20

Created:	2025-02-20
By:	Bradley Leposa (bleposa@bcps.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA1pkBEpU0mQXmro2YISKIIZdCkmrCE1_z

"Interstate Compact MSPA Letter of Support" History

-  Document created by Bradley Leposa (bleposa@bcps.org)
2025-02-20 - 1:39:12 PM GMT- IP address: 69.67.86.38
-  Document emailed to president@mspaonline.org for signature
2025-02-20 - 1:39:18 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by president@mspaonline.org
2025-02-20 - 1:39:59 PM GMT- IP address: 3.238.64.201
-  Signer president@mspaonline.org entered name at signing as Tina L Wachter
2025-02-20 - 3:12:45 PM GMT- IP address: 172.56.105.1
-  Document e-signed by Tina L Wachter (president@mspaonline.org)
Signature Date: 2025-02-20 - 3:12:47 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 172.56.105.1
-  Agreement completed.
2025-02-20 - 3:12:47 PM GMT

