

By the Committee on Education Pre-K -12; and Senator Grall

581-02960-24

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to school chaplains; creating s.
3 1012.461, F.S.; authorizing school districts and
4 charter schools to adopt a policy to allow volunteer
5 school chaplains; establishing the requirements for
6 such policy; requiring district school boards and
7 charter school governing boards to assign specified
8 duties to such volunteer school chaplains; requiring
9 volunteer school chaplains to meet certain background
10 screening requirements; requiring school districts
11 that adopt volunteer school chaplain policies to
12 publish certain information on their websites;
13 amending s. 1012.465, F.S.; providing background
14 screening requirements for volunteer school chaplains;
15 providing an effective date.

16
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19 Section 1. Section 1012.461, Florida Statutes, is created
20 to read:

21 1012.461 School chaplains.-

22 (1) Each school district or charter school may adopt a
23 policy to authorize volunteer school chaplains to provide
24 supports, services, and programs to students as assigned by the
25 district school board or charter school governing board. The
26 school district or charter school policy must, at a minimum:

27 (a) Describe the supports, services, or programs that
28 volunteer school chaplains may be assigned;

29 (b) Require that principals of schools with a volunteer

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30 school chaplain inform all parents of the availability of such
31 supports, services, and programs; and

32 (c) Require written parental consent before a student
33 participates in or receives supports, services, and programs
34 provided by a volunteer school chaplain. Parents must be
35 permitted to select a volunteer school chaplain from the list
36 provided by the school district, which must include the
37 chaplain's religious affiliation, if any.

38 (2) Each volunteer school chaplain must meet the
39 requirements of s. 1012.465.

40 (3) Any school district that adopts a volunteer school
41 chaplain policy shall publish the list of volunteer school
42 chaplains, including any religious affiliation, on the school
43 district's website.

44 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1012.465, Florida
45 Statutes, is amended to read:

46 1012.465 Background screening requirements for certain
47 noninstructional school district employees, ~~and~~ contractors, and
48 volunteer school chaplains.-

49 (1) Except as provided in s. 1012.467 or s. 1012.468,
50 noninstructional school district employees, ~~or~~ contractual
51 personnel, or volunteer school chaplains who are permitted
52 access on school grounds when students are present, who have
53 direct contact with students or who have access to or control of
54 school funds must meet the screening requirements of s. 1012.32.
55 Contractual personnel shall include any vendor, individual, or
56 entity under contract with a school or the school board.

57 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.