

HB59 INTRODUCED



1 HB59
2 TR7L99-1
3 By Representative Gidley
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 06-Feb-24
6 PFD: 12-Jan-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would authorize a public school to employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain to provide services to students, provided the chaplain undergoes a criminal history background information check before the chaplain may be employed or accepted as a volunteer.

This bill prohibits any individual who has been adjudicated or convicted of an offense that requires registration as a sex offender from working or volunteering as a chaplain in a public school.

This bill also requires each local board of education and the governing body of each public charter school to vote on whether to allow schools in their purview to employ or accept a chaplain as a volunteer.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to chaplains; to allow a public K-12 school to employ or accept a chaplain as a volunteer; to prohibit certain individuals from working or volunteering as a chaplain in a public school; and to require each local board of



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29 education and governing body of a public charter school to
30 vote on whether to allow the employment or volunteer services
31 of a chaplain.

32 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

33 Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the
34 term "public school" means any public K-12 school or public
35 charter school.

36 (b) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, a public
37 school may employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain to
38 provide support, services, and programs for students. A
39 chaplain employed or volunteering under this section is not
40 required to be certified by the State Board of Education.

41 (c) A public school that employs or accepts a chaplain
42 as a volunteer under this section shall, before the chaplain
43 may begin employment or volunteering, ensure that the chaplain
44 complies with Section 16-22A-5, Code of Alabama 1975, relating
45 to criminal history background information check requirements.

46 (d) A public school may not employ or accept a chaplain
47 as a volunteer who has been adjudicated or convicted of an
48 offense that requires registration as a sex offender under
49 Chapter 20A of Title 15, Code of Alabama 1975.

50 (e) Each local board of education and the governing
51 body of each public charter school shall take a record vote no
52 later than April 1, 2025, on whether to adopt a policy
53 authorizing a public school under its purview to employ or
54 accept as a volunteer a chaplain under this section.

55 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
56 1, 2024.