



**House Education Policy Reported Substitute for
SB294**

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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to chaplains; to allow a public K-12 school or public charter school to accept a campus chaplain as a volunteer; to prohibit certain individuals from working or volunteering as a campus chaplain in a public school or public charter school; and to allow each local board of education and the governing body of each public charter school to vote on whether to allow the volunteer services of a campus chaplain.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

(b) (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, a public school, following the procedure provided in subdivision (e), may accept a campus chaplain as a volunteer to provide support, services, and programs. A campus chaplain volunteering under this section is not required to be certified by the State Board of Education.

(2) Each campus chaplain volunteering under this section must have completed a recognized chaplain training program.



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29 (c) A public school that accepts a campus chaplain as a
30 volunteer under this section, before the campus chaplain may
31 begin volunteering, shall ensure that the campus chaplain
32 complies with Section 16-22A-5, Code of Alabama 1975, relating
33 to criminal history background information check requirements.

34 (d) A public school may not accept a campus chaplain as
35 a volunteer who has been adjudicated or convicted of an
36 offense that requires registration as a sex offender under
37 Chapter 20A of Title 15, Code of Alabama 1975.

38 (e) (1) Each local board of education and the governing
39 body of each public charter school may take a recorded vote no
40 later than April 1, 2025, on whether to adopt a policy
41 authorizing a public school under its jurisdiction to accept a
42 campus chaplain as a volunteer under this section.

43 (2) If a local board of education or governing body of
44 a public charter school votes to accept a campus chaplain as a
45 volunteer, a campus chaplain may be made available to provide
46 support, services, and programs at the request of any teacher
47 in the local school district.

48 Section 2. This act shall become effective on August 1,
49 2024.