

HB179 INTRODUCED



1 HB179
2 XAYL7ZZ-1
3 By Representatives *Gidley, Hollis, Hulsey, Givens, Rehm,*
4 *Paschal, Moore (P), Kiel, Underwood, DuBose, Butler, Estes,*
5 *McClammy, Harrison, Pettus, Fidler, Morris*
6 RFD: Education Policy
7 First Read: 05-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would authorize each local board of education and the governing body of each public charter school to vote on whether to allow schools in their jurisdiction to accept a campus chaplain as a volunteer and, if the vote is in the affirmative, would allow volunteer chaplains to be made available to provide services at the request of a teacher.

This bill would require a volunteer campus chaplain to complete a recognized chaplain training program and undergo a criminal history background information check before being accepted as a volunteer.

This bill would also prohibit any individual who has been adjudicated or convicted of an offense that requires registration as a sex offender from volunteering as a campus chaplain.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to allow a public K-12 school or public charter school to accept a campus chaplain who meets certain requirements as a volunteer; to



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29 prohibit certain individuals from volunteering as a campus
30 chaplain; and to allow each local board of education and the
31 governing body of each public charter school to vote on
32 whether to allow the volunteer services of a campus chaplain.
33 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

37 (b) (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, each
38 local board of education and the governing body of each public
39 charter school may take a recorded vote on whether to adopt a
40 policy authorizing a public school under its jurisdiction to
41 accept a campus chaplain as a volunteer under this section.

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

47 (c) (1) A campus chaplain volunteering under this
48 section is not required to be certified by the State Board of
49 Education.

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

53 (d) A public school that accepts a campus chaplain as a
54 volunteer under this section, before the campus chaplain may
55 begin volunteering, shall ensure that the campus chaplain
56 complies with Section 16-22A-5, Code of Alabama 1975, relating



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57 to criminal history background information check requirements.

58 (e) A public school may not accept a campus chaplain as
59 a volunteer who has been adjudicated or convicted of an
60 offense that requires registration as a sex offender under
61 Chapter 20A of Title 15, Code of Alabama 1975.

62 Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1,
63 2025.