

HB8 INTRODUCED



1 HB8
2 L5P8TTY-1
3 By Representatives Gidley, Hollis, Harrison, Rigsby, DuBose,
4 Paschal, Hulsey, Shaver, Colvin, Mooney, Sellers, Standridge,
5 Carns, Morris
6 RFD: Education Policy
7 First Read: 13-Jan-26
8 PFD: 25-Jun-25



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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prohibit certain individuals from volunteering as a campus chaplain; 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 2025-2026 school year, each local board of education and the governing body of each public charter school may take a recorded vote on whether to adopt a policy authorizing a public school under its jurisdiction to accept a campus chaplain as a volunteer under this section.

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

(c) (1) 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.

(d) A public school that accepts a campus chaplain as a volunteer under this section, before the campus chaplain may begin volunteering, shall ensure that the campus chaplain 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 2026.