

SB294 INTRODUCED



1 SB294
2 5NX7336-1
3 By Senator Smitherman
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 04-Apr-24



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SYNOPSIS:

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

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

This bill would also require 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 employ or accept a campus chaplain as a volunteer.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to chaplains; to allow a public K-12 school or public charter school to employ or accept a campus chaplain as



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29 a volunteer; to prohibit certain individuals from working or
30 volunteering as a campus chaplain in a public school or public
31 charter school; and to require each local board of education
32 and the governing body of each public charter school to vote
33 on whether to allow the employment or volunteer services of a
34 campus chaplain.

35 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

39 (b) (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, a
40 public school may employ or accept as a volunteer a campus
41 chaplain to provide support, services, and programs. A campus
42 chaplain employed or volunteering under this section is not
43 required to be certified by the State Board of Education.

44 (2) Each campus chaplain employed or volunteering under
45 this section must have completed a recognized chaplain
46 training program.

47 (c) A public school that employs or accepts a campus
48 chaplain as a volunteer under this section, before the campus
49 chaplain may begin employment or volunteering, shall ensure
50 that the campus chaplain complies with Section 16-22A-5, Code
51 of Alabama 1975, relating to criminal history background
52 information check requirements.

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



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57 (e) Each local board of education and the governing
58 body of each public charter school shall take a recorded vote
59 no later than April 1, 2025, on whether to adopt a policy
60 authorizing a public school under its jurisdiction to employ
61 or accept as a volunteer a campus chaplain under this section.

62 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
63 1, 2024.