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HB 931, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

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 2 An act relating to school chaplains; creating s.
 3 1012.461, F.S.; authorizing school districts and
 4 charter schools to adopt a policy to allow volunteer
 5 school chaplains; establishing the requirements for
 6 such policy; requiring district school boards and
 7 charter school governing boards to assign specified
 8 duties to such volunteer school chaplains; requiring
 9 volunteer school chaplains to meet certain background
 10 screening requirements; requiring school districts and
 11 charter schools to publish specified information under
 12 certain circumstances; amending s. 1012.465, F.S.;
 13 providing background screening requirements for
 14 volunteer school chaplains; providing an effective
 15 date.

16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18
 19 Section 1. Section 1012.461, Florida Statutes, is created
 20 to read:

21 1012.461 School chaplains.—

22 (1) Each school district or charter school may adopt a
 23 policy to authorize volunteer school chaplains to provide
 24 support, services, and programs to students as assigned by the
 25 district school board or charter school governing board. The

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26 school district or charter school policy must, at a minimum:

27 (a) Describe the supports, services, or programs that
 28 volunteer school chaplains may be assigned.

29 (b) Require that principals of schools with a volunteer
 30 school chaplain inform all parents of the availability of such
 31 supports, services, and programs.

32 (c) Require written parental consent before a student
 33 participates in or receives supports, services, and programs
 34 provided by a volunteer school chaplain. Parents must be
 35 permitted to select a volunteer school chaplain from the list
 36 provided by the school district, which must include the
 37 chaplain's religious affiliation, if any.

38 (2) Each volunteer school chaplain must meet the
 39 requirements of s. 1012.465.

40 (3) Any school district or charter school that adopts a
 41 volunteer school chaplains policy must publish the list of
 42 volunteer school chaplains, including any religious affiliation,
 43 on the school district or charter school's website.

44 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1012.465, Florida
 45 Statutes, is amended to read:

46 1012.465 Background screening requirements for certain
 47 noninstructional school district employees, ~~and~~ contractors, and
 48 volunteer school chaplains.—

49 (1) Except as provided in s. 1012.467 or s. 1012.468,
 50 noninstructional school district employees, ~~or~~ contractual

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51 | personnel, or volunteer school chaplains who are permitted
52 | access on school grounds when students are present, who have
53 | direct contact with students or who have access to or control of
54 | school funds must meet the screening requirements of s. 1012.32.
55 | Contractual personnel shall include any vendor, individual, or
56 | entity under contract with a school or the school board.

57 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.