

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6218
BILL NUMBER: SB 50

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 25, 2024
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Chaplains in Public Schools.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Donato
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows a principal or superintendent of a public school, including a charter school, to employ, or approve as a volunteer, a school chaplain if certain requirements are met. Provides that a school chaplain may only provide secular support to a student or an employee of the school unless permission is given by:

- (1) The student receiving services;
- (2) The employee of the school receiving services; or
- (3) A parent or guardian of the student receiving services;

to provide nonsecular support.

The bill also provides that a school chaplain is not required to divulge privileged or confidential communications with a student under certain circumstances.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill could increase expenditures for public schools who choose to employ a chaplain by approximately \$65,000 per chaplain. This cost may be offset if the school chooses to hire a chaplain instead of other types of student support services personnel. [The average annual salary and fringe benefit cost for a school psychologist, counselor, or social worker in the state of Indiana as of May 2022, is approximately \$85,000, \$64,000, and \$59,000 respectively.] Public schools who accept volunteer

chaplains may also experience a minor workload increase related to overseeing the volunteer staff. These requirements are within public schools' routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Public schools.

Information Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics.

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