2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 334

BY REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, CARLSON, CARVER, EDMONSTON, MELERINE, ORGERON, AND SCHLEGEL

SCHOOLS: Authorizes school boards to provide for chaplains to serve in public schools as employees or on a volunteer basis

1	AN ACT
2	To enact R.S. 17:2115.12 and 3996(B)(82), relative to school chaplains; to authorize each
3	public school board to provide for the service of chaplains at its schools; to provide
4	that chaplains may be employees or serve on a volunteer basis; to provide that
5	student and employee participation with a chaplain's programs or services is
6	optional; to subject chaplains to criminal history laws applicable to school employees
7	and school volunteers; to require any school board providing for chaplains to adopt
8	policies relative to their service; and to provide for related matters.
9	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
10	Section 1. R.S. 17:2115.12 and 3996(B)(82) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
11	<u>§2115.12. School chaplains</u>
12	A. Each local public school board may provide for the service of a chaplain
13	at any school under its jurisdiction. The school board may hire chaplains as school
14	employees or authorize them to serve on a volunteer basis.
15	B. Participation by any student or employee in any program or service
16	offered by the chaplain is optional.
17	C. A school chaplain is subject to all criminal history laws and policies that
18	are applicable to other school employees and school volunteers, including but not
19	limited to R.S. 15:587.1 and R.S. 17:15.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	D. Any school board providing for the service of chaplains as authorized in
2	this Section shall adopt policies for the implementation of this Section.
3	* * *
4	§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements
5	* * *
6	B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
7	except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
8	charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
9	Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
10	exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
11	applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
12	the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:
13	* * *
14	(82) School chaplains, R.S. 17:2115.12.
15	* * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Abstract: Authorizes schools boards to provide for chaplains to serve in public schools as employees or on a volunteer basis.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes school boards to provide for the service of school chaplains as employees or volunteers; provides that participation in a chaplain's programs or services is optional; subjects chaplains to all <u>present law</u> relative to criminal history of school employees and volunteers; and requires school boards with chaplains to adopt policies for proposed law implementation.

(Adds R.S. 17:2115.12 and 3996(B)(82))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.