

SENATE BILL NO. 123

BY SENATORS ABRAHAM, BARROW, BASS, CATHEY, EDMONDS, FESI, HENRY,  
HODGES AND MIZELL

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 19-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 17:3011 through 3014, relative to school chaplains; to provide for  
4 the employment or acceptance as a volunteer of a certified chaplain by public school  
5 boards; to provide for support, services, and programs for students; to provide for  
6 responsibility and hiring requirements; to provide for prohibiting certain hires as  
7 chaplains; to provide for limitation of liability; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 19-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
10 comprised of R.S. 17:3011 through 3014, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 **CHAPTER 19-A. SCHOOL CHAPLAINS**

12 **§3011. School chaplains; employment; volunteer**

13 **Each city, parish, or other local public school board may employ or**  
14 **accept as a volunteer a certified chaplain to provide support, services, and**  
15 **programs for students, staff, and parents as assigned by a school board**  
16 **pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter.**

17 **§3012. Selection; responsibility; certification**

18 **A. The school chaplain shall be selected by and be responsible to the local**  
19 **school officials in each city, parish, or other local public school system.**

20 **B. Any school chaplain employed or accepted as a volunteer pursuant to**  
21 **the provisions of this Section is not required to be certified by the State Board**  
22 **of Elementary and Secondary Education.**

23 **C. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit any school board from**  
24 **employing or accepting as a volunteer more than one chaplain for any school.**

25 **§3013. Hiring requirements; prohibited hires**

1           A. A city, parish, or other local public school board that employs or  
2           accepts as a volunteer, a chaplain, under this Chapter, shall ensure that the  
3           chaplain submits to a fingerprint-based state and federal background check, as  
4           provided in R.S. 15:587.1, before the chaplain begins employment or  
5           volunteering at a school.

6           B. A city, parish, or other local public school board shall not employ or  
7           accept as a volunteer a chaplain who has registered or is required to register as  
8           a sex offender or child predator in accordance with R.S. 15:542 et seq.

9           §3014. Limitation of liability; school chaplain

10           A. No person shall have a cause of action against a chaplain for any  
11           action taken or statement made in adherence with the provisions for service,  
12           support, and programs for students.

13           B. The immunity from liability provided for in Subsection A of this  
14           Section, shall not apply to any action or statement by such chaplain, if such  
15           action or statement was maliciously, willfully, and deliberately intended to cause  
16           harm to harass or intimidate those seeking support, services and programs.

17           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
18           signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
19           by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
20           vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
21           effective on the day following such approval.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_