

FLOOR AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend SB36 _____
Of the printed Bill
Page _____ Section _____ Lines _____
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Adopted: _____

Amendment submitted by: Kevin West

Reading Clerk

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 FLOOR SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL NO. 36

By: Dahm of the Senate

and

West (Kevin) of the House

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9 FLOOR SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to education; permitting school
11 districts to employ or accept volunteer chaplains;
12 clarifying certification requirements; directing for
13 background check; prohibiting certain individuals
14 from employment or volunteering; providing reasons
15 for dismissal; clarifying that students and their
16 parents may or may not decide to use chaplain
17 services; prohibiting proselytizing; defining the
18 term chaplain; providing for codification; and
19 providing an effective date.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.205 of Title 70, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 A. A school district may employ or accept one or more volunteer
chaplains to provide support, services, and programs for students as
assigned by the governing body of the school. A chaplain employed

1 or volunteering under this act is not required to be certified by
2 the State Department of Education.

3 B. A school district shall conduct a background check before
4 employing or accepting as a volunteer any chaplain. The background
5 check shall be in accordance with Section 5-142 of Title 70 of the
6 Oklahoma Statutes and volunteers shall be treated as employees for
7 purposes of this subsection.

8 C. A school district shall not employ or accept as a volunteer
9 a chaplain who has been convicted of or is a defendant for an
10 offense that requires the defendant to register as a sex offender.
11 No chaplain shall be employed or accepted as a volunteer if the
12 chaplain has been convicted or received a deferred sentence in this
13 state, another state, district or territory of the United States of
14 a felony offense or for an offense listed in Section 6-101.41 of
15 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

16 D. A chaplain may be dismissed for:

- 17 1. Mental or physical abuse to a child;
- 18 2. Negligent endangerment of a child; or
- 19 3. Commission of an act of moral turpitude.

20 This list is not exhaustive and a school district may dismiss an
21 employed or volunteer chaplain if, for any reason, they believe the
22 chaplain's presence could lead to harm.

23 E. It is solely the decision of the individual student and
24 their parents whether to seek the support or services of a chaplain.

1 All students are welcome to utilize a chaplain, but no student may
2 be required to do so. Parents shall be allowed the opportunity to
3 opt their child out of chaplain services.

4 F. Chaplains employed or volunteering with a school district
5 are prohibited from proselytizing while working or volunteering
6 during school hours or other school functions. Proselytizing shall
7 mean the action of attempting to covert someone from one religion,
8 belief, or opinion to another.

9 G. For purposes of this act, a chaplain shall be a person who
10 obtains an ecclesiastical endorsement from their faith group
11 certifying that such chaplain is:

12 1. A minister, rabbi, priest, imam, lay leader, or similar
13 functionary of the faith group;

14 2. Qualified morally, intellectually, and emotionally to serve
15 as a chaplain; and

16 3. Sensitive to religious pluralism and able to provide for the
17 free exercise of religion by all students.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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20 59-2-10931 MJ 04/22/24

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