

1 A bill to be entitled
 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 each district school
 11 board and charter school to vote by a specified date
 12 on the adoption of a volunteer school chaplain policy;
 13 amending s. 1012.465, F.S.; providing background
 14 screening requirements for volunteer school chaplains;
 15 providing an effective date.

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

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 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

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) No later than January 1, 2025, each district school
 41 board and charter school governing board must vote on whether to
 42 adopt a policy authorizing the school district or charter school
 43 to allow volunteer school chaplains.

44 (4) Any school district that adopts a volunteer school
 45 chaplains policy must publish the list of volunteer school
 46 chaplains, including any religious affiliation, on the school
 47 district's website.

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

50 1012.465 Background screening requirements for certain

HB 931

2024

51 noninstructional school district employees, ~~and~~ contractors, and
52 volunteer school chaplains.—

53 (1) Except as provided in s. 1012.467 or s. 1012.468,
54 noninstructional school district employees, ~~or~~ contractual
55 personnel, or volunteer school chaplains who are permitted
56 access on school grounds when students are present, who have
57 direct contact with students or who have access to or control of
58 school funds must meet the screening requirements of s. 1012.32.
59 Contractual personnel shall include any vendor, individual, or
60 entity under contract with a school or the school board.

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