

House File 2073 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act authorizing school districts, charter schools, and
2 innovation zone schools to employ chaplains, or engage
3 volunteer chaplains, to provide services to students.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 1, Code 2024, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *j.* Employ chaplains, or engage chaplains to
4 serve without compensation or remuneration, in the same manner
5 as a school district under section 279.84.

6 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
7 following new subsection:

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. A charter school or innovation zone
9 school may employ chaplains, or engage chaplains to serve
10 without compensation or remuneration, in the same manner as a
11 school district under section 279.84.

12 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **279.84 School chaplains.**

13 1. The board of directors of a school district may employ a
14 chaplain, or engage a chaplain to serve without compensation or
15 remuneration, to provide support, services, and programs for
16 students as assigned by the board of directors of the school
17 district.

18 2. The board of directors of a school district shall not
19 require a chaplain employed or engaged under this section to
20 have a license, endorsement, certification, authorization, or
21 statement of recognition issued by the board of educational
22 examiners.

23 3. The procedure for background investigations and
24 termination established in section 279.69 shall apply to
25 chaplains employed or engaged under this section.

26 4. The board of directors of a school district shall not
27 require or coerce a student to utilize the support, services,
28 or programs provided by a chaplain who is employed or engaged
29 by the board of directors of the school district pursuant to
30 this section.

31 **EXPLANATION**

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill authorizes school districts, charter schools,
35 and innovation zone schools to employ chaplains, or engage

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1 volunteer chaplains, to provide support, services, and programs
2 for students. The bill provides that such chaplains are
3 not required to have a license, endorsement, certification,
4 authorization, or statement of recognition issued by the board
5 of educational examiners. The bill requires school districts,
6 charter schools, and innovation zone schools to follow the
7 background investigation and termination procedures established
8 under Code section 279.69 when employing chaplains or engaging
9 volunteer chaplains. The bill prohibits school districts,
10 charter schools, and innovation zone schools from requiring
11 or coercing a student to utilize the support, services, or
12 programs provided by a chaplain.