

**House File 334 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 334  
BY KNIFF MCCULLA

**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:

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1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 1, Code 2025, 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 as  
5 a school district under section 279.87.

6 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, Code 2025, 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 without  
10 compensation or remuneration, in the same manner as a school  
11 district under section 279.87.

12 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **279.87 School chaplains.**

13 1. The board of directors of a school district may employ  
14 a chaplain, or engage a chaplain to serve without compensation  
15 or 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, or  
28 programs provided by a chaplain who is employed or engaged by  
29 the board of directors of the school district pursuant to this  
30 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

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 or  
11 coercing a student to utilize the support, services, or programs  
12 provided by a chaplain.

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