

SB294 INTRODUCED



1 SB294
2 5NX7336-1
3 By Senator Smitherman
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 04-Apr-24

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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 This bill would authorize a public school or
6 public charter school to employ or accept as a
7 volunteer a campus chaplain to provide services,
8 provided the campus chaplain undergoes a criminal
9 history background information check before the
10 chaplain is employed or accepted as a volunteer.

11 This bill would prohibit any individual who has
12 been adjudicated or convicted of an offense that
13 requires registration as a sex offender from working or
14 volunteering as a campus chaplain in a public school or
15 public charter school.

16 This bill would also require each local board of
17 education and the governing body of each public charter
18 school to vote on whether to allow schools in their
19 jurisdiction to employ or accept a campus chaplain as a
20 volunteer.

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23 A BILL
24 TO BE ENTITLED
25 AN ACT
26

27 Relating to chaplains; to allow a public K-12 school or
28 public charter school to employ or accept a campus chaplain as



SB294 INTRODUCED

a volunteer; to prohibit certain individuals from working or volunteering as a campus chaplain in a public school or public charter school; and to require each local board of education and the governing body of each public charter school to vote on whether to allow the employment or volunteer services of a campus chaplain.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "public school" means any public K-12 school or public charter school.

(b) (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, a public school may employ or accept as a volunteer a campus chaplain to provide support, services, and programs. A campus chaplain employed or volunteering under this section is not required to be certified by the State Board of Education.

(2) Each campus chaplain employed or volunteering under this section must have completed a recognized chaplain training program.

(c) A public school that employs or accepts a campus chaplain as a volunteer under this section, before the campus chaplain may begin employment or volunteering, shall ensure that the campus chaplain complies with Section 16-22A-5, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to criminal history background information check requirements.

(d) A public school may not employ or accept a campus chaplain as a volunteer who has been adjudicated or convicted of an offense that requires registration as a sex offender under Chapter 20A of Title 15, Code of Alabama 1975.



SB294 INTRODUCED

57 (e) Each local board of education and the governing
58 body of each public charter school shall take a recorded vote
59 no later than April 1, 2025, on whether to adopt a policy
60 authorizing a public school under its jurisdiction to employ
61 or accept as a volunteer a campus chaplain under this section.

62 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
63 1, 2024.