

CHAPTER 2024-103

House Bill No. 931

An act relating to school chaplains; creating s. 1012.461, F.S.; authorizing school districts and charter schools to adopt a policy to allow volunteer school chaplains; establishing the requirements for such policy; requiring district school boards and charter school governing boards to assign specified duties to such volunteer school chaplains; requiring volunteer school chaplains to meet certain background screening requirements; requiring school districts and charter schools to publish specified information under certain circumstances; amending s. 1012.465, F.S.; providing background screening requirements for volunteer school chaplains; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1012.461, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1012.461 School chaplains.—

(1) Each school district or charter school may adopt a policy to authorize volunteer school chaplains to provide support, services, and programs to students as assigned by the district school board or charter school governing board. The school district or charter school policy must, at a minimum:

(a) Describe the supports, services, or programs that volunteer school chaplains may be assigned.

(b) Require that principals of schools with a volunteer school chaplain inform all parents of the availability of such supports, services, and programs.

(c) Require written parental consent before a student participates in or receives supports, services, and programs provided by a volunteer school chaplain. Parents must be permitted to select a volunteer school chaplain from the list provided by the school district, which must include the chaplain's religious affiliation, if any.

(2) Each volunteer school chaplain must meet the requirements of s. 1012.465.

(3) Any school district or charter school that adopts a volunteer school chaplains policy must publish the list of volunteer school chaplains, including any religious affiliation, on the school district or charter school's website.

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

1012.465 Background screening requirements for certain noninstructional school district employees, and contractors, and volunteer school chaplains.—

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

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

Approved by the Governor April 18, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 18, 2024.