

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB36
Version:	FA3
Request Number:	10931
Author:	Rep. Echols
Date:	4/24/2024
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The floor substitute for SB 36 authorizes school districts to hire or accept volunteer chaplains to provide services and programs for students. Chaplains must have an endorsement from their faith group but are not required to be certified by the State Department of Education. They must undergo background checks and must not have certain criminal convictions related to sexual offenses or felonies. Chaplains may be dismissed for child abuse, neglect, or any reason in which their presence could lead to harm. Students may choose to seek support from a chaplain, and no student can be required to do so.

CHANGES IN FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FROM COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE:

The floor substitute adds provisions to the chaplain hiring process by requiring background checks and faith group endorsement. The substitute also clarifies that chaplain services are optional and details reasons for dismissing a chaplain from a school.

Prepared By: Autumn Mathews

Fiscal Analysis

The FA3 to the measure adds provisions to the hiring process for school chaplains, provides reasons for dismissal, and clarifies when and how chaplain services are to be used. This does not create fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.