

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 968

By: Jett

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; allowing a school  
8 district board of education to contract with a  
9 chaplain to perform certain duties; exempting  
10 chaplain from certain requirements; defining term;  
11 requiring certain record check; providing for  
12 codification; providing an effective date; and  
13 declaring an emergency.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-101.9 of Title 70, unless  
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. A school district board of education may contract with a  
19 chaplain to perform the duties of a school counselor. A chaplain  
20 shall not be required to meet the certification requirements of  
21 Section 6-122.3 or 6-187 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and  
22 shall not be considered a teacher as defined by Section 1-116 of  
23 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. For the purposes of this  
24 section, "chaplain" means an ordained or authorized pastor,  
25 minister, priest, or other ecclesiastical dignitary of any

1 denomination who has been duly ordained or authorized by the church  
2 to which the person belongs.

3 B. A chaplain hired pursuant to the provisions of this section  
4 shall be subject to a national criminal history record check as  
5 required by Section 5-142 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

7 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
8 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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