

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1738

By: Jett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; allowing a school district or public charter school to employ or accept as a volunteer one or more chaplains; exempting chaplains from certification requirements; defining term; requiring school districts and public charter schools to request certain record check; prohibiting a school district or public charter school from employing or accepting as a volunteer individuals subject to certain registry; prohibiting a student or school employee from being required to seek support or services from an employed or volunteer chaplain; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

A. A school district or public charter school may employ or accept as a volunteer one or more chaplains to provide support, services, and programs for school employees and students as assigned by the school district board of education or the governing body of the charter school. A chaplain employed or volunteering pursuant to

1 the provisions of this subsection shall not be required to be
2 certified by the State Board of Education. For the purposes of this
3 section, "chaplain" means an ordained or authorized pastor,
4 minister, priest, or other ecclesiastical dignitary of any
5 denomination who has been duly ordained or authorized by the church
6 to which such person belongs.

7 B. 1. A school district or public charter school that employs
8 or accepts as a volunteer one or more chaplains pursuant to
9 subsection A of this section shall request that the Oklahoma State
10 Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) provide a national criminal history
11 record check for the employed or volunteer chaplain or chaplains
12 prior to the individual working or volunteering at the school
13 district or public charter school. The national criminal history
14 record check shall comply with the provisions of Section 5-142 of
15 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

16 2. A school district or public charter school shall not employ
17 or accept as a volunteer a chaplain who has been convicted of or is
18 a defendant for an offense that requires the defendant to register
19 as a sex offender.

20 C. No student or school employee shall be required to seek
21 support or services from an employed or volunteer chaplain.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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