

SENATE BILL NO. 123

BY SENATORS ABRAHAM, BARROW, BASS, CATHEY, EDMONDS, FESI, HENRY,
HODGES AND MIZELL

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 19-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 17:3011 through 3014, relative to school chaplains; to provide for
4 the employment or acceptance as a volunteer of a certified chaplain by public school
5 boards; to provide for support, services, and programs for students; to provide for
6 responsibility and hiring requirements; to provide for prohibiting certain hires as
7 chaplains; to provide for limitation of liability; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 19-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
10 comprised of R.S. 17:3011 through 3014, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 CHAPTER 19-A. SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

12 §3011. School chaplains; employment; volunteer

13 Each city, parish, or other local public school board may employ or
14 accept as a volunteer a certified chaplain to provide support, services, and
15 programs for students, staff, and parents as assigned by a school board
16 pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter.

17 §3012. Selection; responsibility; certification

18 A. The school chaplain shall be selected by and be responsible to the local
19 school officials in each city, parish, or other local public school system.

20 B. Any school chaplain employed or accepted as a volunteer pursuant to
21 the provisions of this Section is not required to be certified by the State Board
22 of Elementary and Secondary Education.

23 C. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit any school board from
24 employing or accepting as a volunteer more than one chaplain for any school.

25 §3013. Hiring requirements; prohibited hires

1 A. A city, parish, or other local public school board that employs or
 2 accepts as a volunteer, a chaplain, under this Chapter, shall ensure that the
 3 chaplain submits to a fingerprint-based state and federal background check, as
 4 provided in R.S. 15:587.1, before the chaplain begins employment or
 5 volunteering at a school.

6 B. A city, parish, or other local public school board shall not employ or
 7 accept as a volunteer a chaplain who has registered or is required to register as
 8 a sex offender or child predator in accordance with R.S. 15:542 et seq.

9 §3014. Limitation of liability; school chaplain

10 A. No person shall have a cause of action against a chaplain for any
 11 action taken or statement made in adherence with the provisions for service,
 12 support, and programs for students.

13 B. The immunity from liability provided for in Subsection A of this
 14 Section, shall not apply to any action or statement by such chaplain, if such
 15 action or statement was maliciously, willfully, and deliberately intended to cause
 16 harm to harass or intimidate those seeking support, services and programs.

17 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 18 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 19 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 20 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 21 effective on the day following such approval.

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____