

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS****HB 334****2024 Regular Session****Amedee**

SCHOOLS: Authorizes school boards to provide for chaplains to serve in public schools as employees or on a volunteer basis

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Remove applicability to charter schools.
2. Add a limitation of liability for chaplains.
3. Specify that the chaplain be a "certified" chaplain but provide that he need not be BESE-certified.
4. Specify further regarding criminal background check requirements and prohibited hires.
5. Allow more than one chaplain at a school.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Proposed law authorizes local public school boards to provide for certified chaplains at schools, either as employees or volunteers, to provide support, services, and programs for students, staff, and parents. Proposed law further:

- (1) Provides that a chaplain need not be certified by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- (2) Allows more than one chaplain at a school.
- (3) Requires school boards to ensure that chaplains submit state and federal background checks prior to service.
- (4) Prohibits school boards from having a chaplain who has registered or is required to register as a sex offender or child predator.
- (5) Provides a limitation of liability for chaplains unless their actions or statements were intended to cause harm, harass, or intimidate.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3011-3014)