

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32325C1 / H0410

With the reality of our nation's mental health epidemic, we all stand to benefit from more peacemakers, motivators, and community builders. This is especially true in schools, which can be difficult, high-pressure environments for students and teachers alike. From legislators to first responders, a variety of public servants have access to chaplains, yet teachers do not. This legislation honors the demanding work of education by making it possible for vetted professionals to serve our school communities. School districts and charter schools will be allowed to accept a school chaplain as an employee or volunteer, to serve students, staff, and parents. Whether to adopt such a policy and which types of services a chaplain would provide will be at the discretion of the school district or charter school.

FISCAL NOTE

School districts and charter schools choosing to expend any resources on a chaplain would do so out of existing budgets. Otherwise, this legislation causes no additional expenditure of funds at the state or local level of government, nor does it cause an increase or decrease in revenue for state or local government; therefore the legislation has no fiscal impact.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).