HB931, Engrossed 1

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to school chaplains; creating s. 1012.461, F.S.; authorizing school districts and charter schools to adopt a policy to allow volunteer school chaplains; establishing the requirements for such policy; requiring district school boards and charter school governing boards to assign specified duties to such volunteer school chaplains; requiring volunteer school chaplains to meet certain background screening requirements; requiring school districts and charter schools to publish specified information under certain circumstances; amending s. 1012.465, F.S.; providing background screening requirements for volunteer school chaplains; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. Section 1012.461, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 1012.461 School chaplains.-(1) Each school district or charter school may adopt a policy to authorize volunteer school chaplains to provide support, services, and programs to students as assigned by the

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district school board or charter school governing board. The

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26	school district or charter school policy must, at a minimum:
27	(a) Describe the supports, services, or programs that
28	volunteer school chaplains may be assigned.
29	(b) Require that principals of schools with a volunteer
30	school chaplain inform all parents of the availability of such
31	supports, services, and programs.
32	(c) Require written parental consent before a student
33	participates in or receives supports, services, and programs
34	provided by a volunteer school chaplain. Parents must be
35	permitted to select a volunteer school chaplain from the list
36	provided by the school district, which must include the
37	chaplain's religious affiliation, if any.
38	(2) Each volunteer school chaplain must meet the
39	requirements of s. 1012.465.
40	(3) Any school district or charter school that adopts a
41	volunteer school chaplains policy must publish the list of
42	volunteer school chaplains, including any religious affiliation,
43	on the school district or charter school's website.
44	Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1012.465, Florida
45	Statutes, is amended to read:
46	1012.465 Background screening requirements for certain
47	noninstructional school district employees, and contractors, and
48	volunteer school chaplains
49	(1) Except as provided in s. 1012.467 or s. 1012.468,
50	noninstructional school district employees ex contractual

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personnel, or volunteer school chaplains who are permitted access on school grounds when students are present, who have direct contact with students or who have access to or control of school funds must meet the screening requirements of s. 1012.32. Contractual personnel shall include any vendor, individual, or entity under contract with a school or the school board.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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