

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1984

By: Jett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; allowing a school district board of education to contract with a chaplain to perform certain duties; exempting chaplain from certain requirements; defining term; requiring certain record check; 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 board of education may contract with a chaplain to perform the duties of a school counselor. A chaplain shall not be required to meet the certification requirements of Section 6-122.3 or 6-187 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and shall not be considered a teacher as defined by Section 1-116 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. For the purposes of this section, "chaplain" means an ordained or authorized pastor, minister, priest, or other ecclesiastical dignitary of any

1 denomination who has been duly ordained or authorized by the church
2 to which the person belongs.

3 B. A chaplain hired pursuant to the provisions of this section
4 shall be subject to a national criminal history record check as
5 required by Section 5-142 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

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