

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB36
Version:	FA3-A1
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Echols
Date:	4/24/2024
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The amendment to the third floor amendment to SB 36 requires school chaplains to have completed a bachelor's degree, a graduate degree in religious studies, and the basic theological education for their denomination or faith tradition. The amendment also requires chaplains to have an endorsement from their faith group.

SB 36, as amended, authorizes school districts to hire or accept volunteer chaplains to provide services and programs for students. Chaplains are not required to be certified by the State Department of Education but must have completed a bachelor's degree, a graduate degree in religious studies, and the basic theological education for their denomination or faith tradition. Chaplains must also have an endorsement from their faith group. Prospective chaplains must undergo background checks and must not have certain criminal convictions related to sexual offenses or felonies. Chaplains may be dismissed for child abuse, neglect, or any reason in which their presence could lead to harm. Students may choose to seek support from a chaplain, and no student can be required to do so.

Prepared By: Autumn Mathews

Fiscal Analysis

The FA3-A1 to the measure modifies the requirements to serve as a school chaplain. It does not create fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.