

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILLS NOS. 49 & 118
AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to allowing public schools to employ or accept chaplains as volunteers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 160.2505, to read as
3 follows:

160.2505. 1. A school district or charter school may
2 employ a chaplain or accept a chaplain as a screened
3 volunteer, as the term "screened volunteer" is defined in
4 section 168.133, to provide support, services, or programs
5 for students as assigned by the school board of the school
6 district or the governing body of the charter school.

7 2. A chaplain employed by or volunteering for a school
8 district or charter school pursuant to the provisions of
9 this section shall not be required to be a certified teacher
10 pursuant to the provisions of section 168.021.

11 3. A school district or charter school that employs a
12 chaplain or accepts a chaplain as a screened volunteer shall
13 ensure that a criminal background check is conducted on such
14 chaplain pursuant to the provisions of section 168.133
15 before the chaplain begins employment or volunteer service
16 at the district or school.

17 4. A school district or charter school shall not
18 employ a chaplain or accept a chaplain as a screened
19 volunteer if such chaplain is required to be registered as a

20 sex offender pursuant to the provisions of sections 589.400
21 to 589.425.

22 5. By March 1, 2026, each school board of a school
23 district and each governing body of a charter school shall
24 vote on whether to adopt a policy authorizing an attendance
25 center of the district or charter school to employ a
26 chaplain or accept a chaplain as a screened volunteer
27 pursuant to the provisions of this section.