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

✓