



2025 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1054

HOUSE EDUCATION ENGROSSED

Introduced by: Representative Novstrup

1 **An Act to allow public schools to authorize an individual to volunteer or be employed**
2 **as a school chaplain.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 13-8:**

5 The board of each school district shall implement a policy that authorizes an
6 individual to volunteer or be employed as a school chaplain. The policy must describe the
7 process by which an individual applies to volunteer or be employed as a school chaplain,
8 the minimum qualifications the applicant must have to volunteer or be employed as a
9 school chaplain, and the service or support that an individual volunteering or employed as
10 a school chaplain may provide. The board must publish on the school district's website the
11 list of individuals volunteering or employed as school chaplains and the religious affiliation
12 of each individual.

13 The policy adopted by the board may not require or compel a student to participate
14 in or receive any service or support provided by an individual volunteering or employed
15 as a school chaplain.

16 The policy adopted by the board may not allow an individual volunteering or
17 employed as a school chaplain to have any disciplinary or supervisory authority over any
18 student or student group.

19 An individual who applies to volunteer or be employed as a school chaplain shall
20 submit to the same criminal background investigation required of an individual hired by a
21 school district pursuant to § 13-10-12.

22 A school district may not allow an individual to volunteer or be employed as a
23 school chaplain if the individual has been convicted of:

24 (1) A crime involving moral turpitude, as defined in § 22-1-2;

25 (2) A crime of violence, as defined in § 22-1-2;

26 (3) A sex offense, as defined in § 22-24B-1; or

- 1 (4) Trafficking in narcotics.