

By: Hefner, Buckley, Burrows,
Harris of Anderson

H.B. No. 3614

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3614:

By: Buckley

C.S.H.B. No. 3614

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to allowing public schools to employ or accept as
3 volunteers chaplains.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 2, Education Code, is amended
6 by adding Chapter 23 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 23. SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

8 Sec. 23.001. SCHOOL CHAPLAINS. A school district or an
9 open-enrollment charter school may employ or accept as a volunteer
10 a chaplain to provide support, services, and programs for students
11 as assigned by the board of trustees of the district or the
12 governing body of the school. A chaplain employed or volunteering
13 under this chapter is not required to be certified by the State
14 Board for Educator Certification.

15 SECTION 2. Section 48.115(b), Education Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (b) Funds allocated under this section must be used to
18 improve school safety and security, including costs associated
19 with:

- 20 (1) securing school facilities, including:
21 (A) improvements to school infrastructure;
22 (B) the use or installation of physical barriers;
23 and
24 (C) the purchase and maintenance of:

1 (i) security cameras or other security
2 equipment; and

3 (ii) technology, including communications
4 systems or devices, that facilitates communication and information
5 sharing between students, school personnel, and first responders in
6 an emergency;

7 (2) providing security for the district, including:

8 (A) employing school district peace officers,
9 private security officers, and school marshals; and

10 (B) collaborating with local law enforcement
11 agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for
12 the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the
13 district;

14 (3) school safety and security training and planning,
15 including:

16 (A) active shooter and emergency response
17 training;

18 (B) prevention and treatment programs relating
19 to addressing adverse childhood experiences; and

20 (C) the prevention, identification, and
21 management of emergencies and threats, using evidence-based,
22 effective prevention practices and including:

23 (i) providing licensed counselors, social
24 workers, chaplains, and individuals trained in restorative
25 discipline and restorative justice practices;

26 (ii) providing mental health personnel and
27 support, including chaplains;

1 (iii) providing behavioral health
2 services, including services provided by chaplains;

3 (iv) establishing threat reporting
4 systems; and

5 (v) developing and implementing programs
6 focused on restorative justice practices, culturally relevant
7 instruction, and providing mental health support, including
8 support provided by chaplains; and

9 (4) providing programs related to suicide prevention,
10 intervention, and postvention, including programs provided by
11 chaplains.

12 SECTION 3. Each board of trustees of a school district and
13 each governing body of an open-enrollment charter school shall take
14 a record vote not later than six months after the effective date of
15 this Act on whether to adopt a policy authorizing a campus of the
16 district or school to employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain
17 under Chapter 23, Education Code, as added by this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
19 school year.

20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.