

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1456**

Introduced by

Representatives S. Olson, Schauer, K. Anderson, McLeod, Meier, Rohr, Steiner

Senators Boehm, Clemens, Larson, Paulson, Weston

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to school chaplains in public school districts.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Certified chaplains - School district policy - Requirements.**

- 7 1. As used in this section, "certified chaplain" means a chaplain certified by a national or  
8 state chaplaincy organization or ecclesiastically endorsed by a religious organization.
- 9 2. A school district may employ or accept as a volunteer a certified chaplain to provide  
10 support, services, and programs for a student, staff member, or legal guardian of a  
11 student as authorized by the board of a school district.
- 12 3. A certified chaplain employed or volunteering under this section is not required to be  
13 licensed by the education standards and practices board.
- 14 4. The board of a school district shall obtain a criminal history record check from the  
15 bureau of criminal investigation for each individual hired or volunteering under this  
16 section. All costs associated with a background check are the responsibility of the  
17 board under section 12-60-24.
- 18 5. A school district may not employ or accept as a volunteer under this section an  
19 individual who is required to register under section 12.1-32-15.
- 20 6. A cause of action does not arise against a certified chaplain for an action taken or  
21 statement made while providing support, services, or programs for a student, staff  
22 member, or legal guardian of a student, unless the action or statement was  
23 maliciously, willfully, and deliberately intended to cause harm to, harass, or intimidate

1           an individual seeking the support, services, or programs provided by the certified  
2           chaplain.

3           **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -**

4           **KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE SCHOOL CHAPLAINS.** There is appropriated  
5 out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum  
6 of \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public  
7 instruction for the purpose of funding the salaries, training, oversight, and governance of school  
8 chaplains and evaluating the efficacy of the program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025,  
9 and ending June 30, 2027. The superintendent of public instruction may provide each school  
10 district no more than \$200,000.