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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2183 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY ZIMMERMAN, STAMBAUGH, PICKETT, GREINER, ROWE,  
BARTON, COOK, JAMES, D'ORSIE AND BOROWICZ, APRIL 3, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 3, 2024

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," providing for school chaplains.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
9 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an  
10 article to read:

11 ARTICLE XIII-F

12 SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

13 Section 1301-F. Scope of article.

14 This article relates to school chaplains.

15 Section 1302-F. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
17 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 "Certified school chaplain." An individual certified by the

1 National School Chaplain Association or other similar  
2 organization.

3 "Public school entity." A school district, intermediate  
4 unit, area career and technical school, charter school, cyber  
5 charter school or regional charter school.

6 Section 1303-F. School chaplains.

7 (a) General rule.--A public school entity may employ, or  
8 approve as a volunteer, a certified school chaplain to provide  
9 support, services and programs for students and employees as  
10 assigned by the governing body of the school if the chaplain has  
11 satisfied the requirements under sections 111 and 111.1 and 23  
12 Pa.C.S. § 6344 (relating to employees having contact with  
13 children; adoptive and foster parents) or 6344.2 (relating to  
14 volunteers having contact with children).

15 (b) State certification not required.--A certified school  
16 chaplain employed or volunteering under this article is not  
17 required to be certified under Article XI.

18 Section 1304-F. Duties of a public school entity.

19 The governing board of a public school entity shall take a  
20 vote, no later than six months after the effective date of this  
21 section, on whether to adopt a policy authorizing the public  
22 school entity to employ, or approve as a volunteer, a certified  
23 school chaplain.

24 Section 2. This amendatory act shall be known as the  
25 Student and Teacher Support Act.

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.