

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1206 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY ZIMMERMAN, D'ORSIE, GREINER, HAMM, BARGER,  
M. MACKENZIE, JAMES, LEADBETER, FINK AND ROWE, APRIL 15, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 15, 2025

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

National School Chaplain Association or other similar organization.

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

Section 1303-F. Certified school chaplains.

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

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

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

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

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

Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.