

LOST

Senators Harbin of the 16th, Robertson of the 29th, Anavitarte of the 31st, and Summers of the 13th offered the following amendment:

1 *Amend HB 282 SCS (LC 49 1919S) by inserting on line 11 before "to provide for related*
2 *matters;" the following:*
3 to amend Code Section 19-15-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
4 definitions concerning child abuse, so as to include school chaplains in the definition of
5 "child protection professional"; to amend Code Section 20-2-182 of the Official Code of
6 Georgia Annotated, relating to program weights to reflect funds for payment of salaries and
7 benefits, maximum class size, reporting requirements, and application to specific school
8 years, so as to authorize local school systems and public schools to employ or accept as
9 volunteers school chaplains; to provide that school chaplains shall provide support, services,
10 and programs for students as assigned; to provide that school chaplains need not be
11 certificated professional personnel; to amend Code Section 49-5-41 of the Official Code of
12 Georgia Annotated, relating to persons and agencies permitted access to records, so as to
13 authorize school chaplains to review records of reports of child abuse;

14 *By inserting after line 33 the following:*

15

SECTION 1-1 A.

16 Code Section 19-15-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
17 concerning child abuse, is amended by revising paragraph (5) as follows:

18 "(5) 'Child protection professional' means any person who is employed by the state or a
19 political subdivision of the state as a law enforcement officer, school teacher, school
20 administrator, ~~or~~ school counselor, or school chaplain or who is employed to render
21 services to children by the Department of Public Health, the Department of Behavioral

22 Health and Developmental Disabilities, or the Department of Human Services or any
23 county board of health, community service board, or county department of family and
24 children services."

25 **SECTION 1.1 B.**

26 Code Section 20-2-182 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to program
27 weights to reflect funds for payment of salaries and benefits, maximum class size, reporting
28 requirements, and application to specific school years, is amended by revising subsection (c)
29 as follows:

30 "(c)(1) The program weights for the kindergarten, kindergarten early intervention,
31 primary, primary grades early intervention, upper elementary, upper elementary grades
32 early intervention, middle school, and alternative education programs and the program
33 weights for the high school programs authorized pursuant to paragraph (4) of
34 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-151, when multiplied by the base amount, shall
35 reflect sufficient funds to pay the beginning salaries for at least one school counselor for
36 every 450 full-time equivalent students. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015 and thereafter,
37 the program weights for the English for speakers of other languages program and the
38 programs for persons with disabilities shall also earn school counselor funding. Further,
39 beginning in Fiscal Year 2016 and thereafter, the program weights for the program for
40 intellectually gifted students and the remedial education program shall also earn school
41 counselor funding. The duties and responsibilities for such school counselors shall be
42 established by the state board to require a minimum of five of the six full-time equivalent
43 program count segments of the counselor's time to be spent counseling or advising
44 students or parents.

45 (2)(A) As used in this paragraph, the term 'chaplain' means a clergy member who is
46 trained to serve in a secular environment; provided, however, that such term shall not
47 include any person who is a satanist.

48 (B) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (1) of this subsection or any other law
49 to the contrary, a local school system or public school shall be authorized to employ or
50 accept as a volunteer a school chaplain to provide ancillary support, services, and
51 programs for students as assigned by the local school superintendent or the local board
52 of education or other public school governing body. A school chaplain employed or
53 accepted as a volunteer under this subsection is not required to be a certificated
54 professional personnel or otherwise subject to any rule or regulation of the Professional
55 Standards Commission.
56 (C) No later than December 31, 2024, each local board of education or other public
57 school governing body shall vote in public on whether to adopt a policy authorizing the
58 employment of school chaplains."

59 **SECTION 1.1 C.**

60 Code Section 49-5-41 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to persons and
61 agencies permitted access to records, is amended by revising paragraph (10) of subsection
62 (c) as follows:

63 "(10) Any school principal or any school guidance counselor, school social worker, ~~or~~
64 school psychologist who is certified under Chapter 2 of Title 20, or school chaplain and
65 who is counseling a student as a part of such counseling person's school employment
66 duties, but those records shall remain confidential and information obtained therefrom by
67 that counseling person may not be disclosed to any person, except that student, not
68 authorized under this Code section to obtain those records, and such unauthorized
69 disclosure shall be punishable as a misdemeanor;"