

SB0612 / HB1234 – UNFAVORABLE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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This bill opens a can of worms.

What is the definition of Chaplain? Interestingly I can't find it in any of the statutes. But the COMAR for the correction system has a Chaplaincy and somewhat defines it. COMAR-12-03-02-02

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/maryland/COMAR-12-03-02-02>

A job description gives a better description of it:

<https://www.jobapscloud.com/MD/specs/classspecdisplay.asp?ClassNumber=005188&LinkSpec=RecruitNum2&R1=&R3=>

I am a devout Christian. While I would love to see more Christianity taught in public institutions, Constitutionally we must allow for other religions as well. And while many constitutionalists proclaim the Federal Constitution's first amendment was intended to be Christian religion, it does not specifically state that. And it has been argued in SCOTUS to be applied to other religions.

So, just like our Correctional systems allow for all faiths to be represented to be Constitutional this bill should as well.

I know the Legislators sponsoring this bill are all Christians, so I ask this question – would you allow for a satanic deity to be considered a chaplain for the purposes sought in this bill? I'm guessing the answer is no.

So while I would love to see this bill passed, it would be violating the Constitution making Christianity the State's religion.

So in order to prevent more evil from being presented in the public school system, I must oppose this bill and request your Unfavorable report.

Thank you.

Nelda Fink