Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1395   (Delegates Metzgar and McComas)

Ways and Means

County Boards of Education - Volunteer Aides - School Chaplain

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This bill authorizes local boards of education to use a chaplain as a volunteer aide in schools to provide support services to students. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This bill only affects operations of local school systems.

Local Effect: Local school systems can develop policies to allow chaplains to serve as volunteer aides with existing resources. Any effect on workers' compensation or comprehensive liability claims is assumed to be minimal. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each local board of education is authorized to use volunteer aides in school activities. However, a volunteer aide may not be used to supplant educational personnel and must be used to assist regular employees in their assignments. Each county school superintendent must establish guidelines for the use of volunteer aides in each school system. A volunteer aide is considered an agent of the county board for the limited purposes of comprehensive liability insurance coverage and workers' compensation coverage under the Maryland Workers' Compensation Act.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 612 and HB 1234 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Workers' Compensation Commission; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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