
HOUSE BILL 2818

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Frame, Irwin, Chapman, Senn, Sells, Sawyer,
Appleton, Fitzgibbon, Macri, and Stanford

Read first time 01/17/18. Referred to Committee on State Govt,
Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to the appointment of religious coordinators;
2 amending RCW 41.04.360, 72.01.210, 72.01.210, and 72.01.212;
3 providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.04.360 and 1982 c 190 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 In the case of a minister or other clergyperson employed as a
8 chaplain or religious coordinator in a state institution or agency,
9 there is designated in the salary or wage paid to the person an
10 amount up to forty percent of the gross salary as either of the
11 following:

12 (1) The rental value of a home furnished to the person as part of
13 the person's compensation; or

14 (2) The housing/rental allowance paid to the person as part of
15 the person's compensation, to the extent used by the person to rent
16 or provide a home.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 72.01.210 and 2008 c 104 s 3 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The secretary of corrections shall appoint institutional
20 (~~chaplains~~) religious coordinators for the state correctional

1 institutions for convicted felons. Institutional ((~~chaplain~~))
2 religious coordinators shall be appointed as employees of the
3 department of corrections. The secretary of corrections may further
4 contract with ((~~chaplain~~)) religious coordinators to be employed as
5 is necessary to meet the religious needs of those inmates whose
6 religious denominations are not represented by institutional
7 ((~~chaplain~~)) religious coordinators and where volunteer
8 ((~~chaplain~~)) religious coordinators are not available.

9 (2) Institutional ((~~chaplain~~)) religious coordinators appointed
10 by the department of corrections under this section shall have
11 qualifications necessary to ((~~function as religious program~~
12 ~~coordinators for~~)) serve all faith groups represented within the
13 department. Every ((~~chaplain~~)) religious coordinator so appointed or
14 contracted with shall have qualifications consistent with community
15 standards of the given faith group to which ((~~the chaplain~~)) he or
16 she belongs and shall not be required to violate the tenets of his or
17 her faith when acting in an ecclesiastical role.

18 (3) The secretary of social and health services shall appoint
19 ((~~chaplain~~)) religious coordinators for the correctional
20 institutions for juveniles found delinquent by the juvenile courts;
21 and the secretary of corrections and the secretary of social and
22 health services shall appoint one or more ((~~chaplain~~)) religious
23 coordinators for other custodial, correctional, and mental
24 institutions under their control.

25 (4) Except as provided in this section, the ((~~chaplain~~))
26 religious coordinators so appointed under this section shall have the
27 qualifications and shall be compensated in an amount as recommended
28 by the appointing department and approved by the Washington personnel
29 resources board.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 72.01.210 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 727 are each
31 amended to read as follows:

32 (1) The secretary of corrections shall appoint institutional
33 ((~~chaplain~~)) religious coordinators for the state correctional
34 institutions for convicted felons. Institutional ((~~chaplain~~))
35 religious coordinators shall be appointed as employees of the
36 department of corrections. The secretary of corrections may further
37 contract with ((~~chaplain~~)) religious coordinators to be employed as
38 is necessary to meet the religious needs of those inmates whose
39 religious denominations are not represented by institutional

1 ((chaplains)) religious coordinators and where volunteer
2 ((chaplains)) religious coordinators are not available.

3 (2) Institutional ((chaplains)) religious coordinators appointed
4 by the department of corrections under this section shall have
5 qualifications necessary to ~~((function as religious program~~
6 ~~coordinators for))~~ serve all faith groups represented within the
7 department. Every ((chaplain)) religious coordinator so appointed or
8 contracted with shall have qualifications consistent with community
9 standards of the given faith group to which ((the chaplain)) he or
10 she belongs and shall not be required to violate the tenets of his or
11 her faith when acting in an ecclesiastical role.

12 (3) The secretary of children, youth, and families shall appoint
13 ((chaplains)) religious coordinators for the correctional
14 institutions for juveniles found delinquent by the juvenile courts;
15 and the secretary of corrections and the secretary of social and
16 health services shall appoint one or more ((chaplains)) religious
17 coordinators for other custodial, correctional, and mental
18 institutions under their control.

19 (4) Except as provided in this section, the ((chaplains))
20 religious coordinators so appointed under this section shall have the
21 qualifications and shall be compensated in an amount as recommended
22 by the appointing department and approved by the Washington personnel
23 resources board.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 72.01.212 and 2008 c 104 s 4 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Regardless of whether the services are voluntary or provided by
27 employment or contract with the department of corrections, a
28 ((chaplain)) religious coordinator who provides the services
29 authorized by RCW 72.01.220:

30 (1) May not be compelled to carry personal liability insurance as
31 a condition of providing those services; and

32 (2) May request that the attorney general authorize the defense
33 of an action or proceeding for damages instituted against the
34 ((chaplain)) religious coordinator arising out of the course of his
35 or her duties in accordance with RCW 4.92.060, 4.92.070, and
36 4.92.075.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 2 of this act expires July 1,
38 2019.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Section 3 of this act takes effect July 1,
2 2019.

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