
HOUSE BILL 1485

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Lekanoff, Pettigrew, Shewmake, Gregerson, Entenman, Pellicciotti, Doglio, Appleton, Frame, Ormsby, Hudgins, Jinkins, and Leavitt

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the appointment of religious coordinators; and
2 amending RCW 41.04.360, 72.01.210, 72.01.212, 72.01.220, 72.01.230,
3 and 72.01.240.

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 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 727 are each
18 amended to 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 children, youth, and families shall appoint
19 chaplains for the correctional institutions for juveniles found
20 delinquent by the juvenile courts; and the secretary of corrections
21 and the secretary of social and health services shall appoint one or
22 more chaplains for other custodial, correctional, and mental
23 institutions under their control.

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

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 72.01.212 and 2008 c 104 s 4 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 Regardless of whether the services are voluntary or provided by
32 employment or contract with the department of corrections, a
33 (~~chaplain~~) religious coordinator who provides the services
34 authorized by RCW 72.01.220:

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

37 (2) May request that the attorney general authorize the defense
38 of an action or proceeding for damages instituted against the
39 (~~chaplain~~) religious coordinator arising out of the course of his

1 or her duties in accordance with RCW 4.92.060, 4.92.070, and
2 4.92.075.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 72.01.220 and 1959 c 28 s 72.01.220 are each amended
4 to read as follows:

5 It shall be the duty of the chaplains and religious coordinators
6 at the respective institutions mentioned in RCW 72.01.210, under the
7 direction of the department, to conduct religious services and to
8 give religious and moral instruction to the inmates of the
9 institutions, and to attend to their spiritual wants. They shall
10 counsel with and interview the inmates concerning their social and
11 family problems, and shall give assistance to the inmates and their
12 families in regard to such problems.

13 **Sec. 5.** RCW 72.01.230 and 1959 c 28 s 72.01.230 are each amended
14 to read as follows:

15 The chaplains and religious coordinators at the respective
16 institutions mentioned in RCW 72.01.210 shall be provided with the
17 offices and chapels at their institutions, and such supplies as may
18 be necessary for the carrying out of their duties.

19 **Sec. 6.** RCW 72.01.240 and 2012 c 117 s 448 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 Each secretary is hereby empowered to appoint one of the
22 chaplains or religious coordinators, authorized by RCW 72.01.210, to
23 act as supervisor of chaplains and religious coordinators for his or
24 her department, in addition to his or her duties at one of the
25 institutions designated in RCW 72.01.210.

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