

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1157

By: Bice of the Senate

3 and

4 Henke of the House

5
6 An Act relating to higher education accreditation;
7 amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 4103, which relates to
8 accreditation of private institutions; providing
9 definitions; requiring private and out-of-state
10 public degree-granting institutions to be authorized
11 according to certain policies and procedures
12 established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
13 Education; providing limitation on procedures;
14 providing certain exemptions; directing certain
15 institutions engaged in certain activities to be
16 subject to standards administered by the Oklahoma
17 Board of Private Vocational Schools.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 4103, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 4103. ~~A~~ A. As used in this section:

22 1. "Degree-granting institution" means an institution that
23 offers education leading to an associate's degree or higher;

24 2. "Non-degree-granting activity" means offering education or
training that does not lead to an associate's degree or higher; and

3. "State authorization reciprocity agreement" means an
agreement among states, districts and territories that establishes

1 comparable standards for providing distance education from their
2 postsecondary educational institutions to out-of-state students.

3 B. All private educational institution and out-of-state public
4 degree-granting institutions shall be accredited under rules
5 promulgated and adopted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
6 Education unless such institution is accredited by a national or
7 regional accrediting agency which is recognized by the Secretary of
8 the United States Department of Education as a reliable authority as
9 to the quality of education or training offered by institutions of
10 higher education for the purposes of the Higher Education Act of
11 1965, as amended. Additionally, for the purposes of consumer
12 protection and to maintain financial eligibility for Title IV
13 funding as described in 34 CFR Part 600, institutions shall be
14 authorized according to the policies and procedures established by
15 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. These policies and
16 procedures shall be limited to a complaint process provision,
17 standards for operation, stipulations for a written enrollment
18 agreement between the institution and the student and reporting
19 requirements. The following institutions shall be exempt from this
20 section:

21 1. Private institutions participating in the Oklahoma Tuition
22 Equalization Grant program; and

23 2. Out-of-state public and private institutions participating
24 in a state authorization reciprocity agreement that only conduct

1 activities in Oklahoma that are acceptable under the terms and
2 conditions of the state authorization reciprocity agreement.

3 C. Non-exempt institutions engaged in non-degree granting
4 activities, such as offering certificates and diplomas, shall be
5 subject to the standards administered by the Oklahoma Board of
6 Private Vocational Schools.

7 Passed the Senate the 10th day of March, 2016.

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10 Presiding Officer of the Senate

11 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
12 2016.

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15 Presiding Officer of the House
16 of Representatives