

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 1660

6 By: Ford of the Senate

7 and

8 Denney of the House

9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
11 2011, Section 4103, which relates to accreditation of  
12 private educational institutions; requiring private  
13 educational institutions to operate under rules of  
14 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;  
15 directing the rules to include certain standards for  
16 program authorization, operation and reporting;  
17 allowing submission of certain exemption  
18 documentation; requiring accreditation by a national  
19 or regional accrediting agency; providing an  
20 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

24 Section 4103. ~~A private~~ Private educational ~~institution~~  
institutions shall ~~be accredited~~ operate under rules promulgated and  
adopted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education ~~unless~~  
~~such institution is.~~ The rules shall include the standards for  
program authorization, operation and reporting requirements. The

1 standards for program authorization shall not include a review of  
2 and shall not dictate curriculum or program content and shall not  
3 include a review of institutional mission statements. Reporting  
4 requirements shall include information relative to accreditation and  
5 federal financial aid program reviews. Provided, however, an  
6 institution may submit documentation to the State Regents for Higher  
7 Education that it is exempt from such rules in accordance with  
8 applicable federal law or regulations.

9 All private educational institutions operating in Oklahoma,  
10 whether exempt or not from rules promulgated and adopted by the  
11 State Regents for Higher Education, shall be accredited by a  
12 national or regional accrediting agency which is recognized by the  
13 Secretary of the United States Department of Education as a reliable  
14 authority as to the quality of education or training offered by  
15 institutions of higher education for the purposes of the Higher  
16 Education Act of 1965, as amended.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

18 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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