

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 1157

By: Bice of the Senate

and

Henke of the House

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

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 A. As used in this section:

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

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

1 3. "State authorization reciprocity agreement" means an
2 agreement among states, districts and territories that establishes
3 comparable standards for providing distance education from their
4 postsecondary educational institutions to out-of-state students.

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

23 1. Private institutions participating in the Oklahoma Tuition
24 Equalization Grant program; and

1 2. Out-of-state public and private institutions participating
2 in a state authorization reciprocity agreement that only conduct
3 activities in Oklahoma that are acceptable under the terms and
4 conditions of the state authorization reciprocity agreement.

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

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10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER TECH,
11 dated 03/30/2016 - DO PASS.
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