

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

SENATE BILL 1157

By: Bice

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education accreditation; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 4103, which relates to accreditation of private institutions; providing definitions; requiring out-of-state public institutions to be accredited by certain agency; requiring certain private institutions and out-of-state public institutions to abide by certain policies; requiring certain private institutions and out-of-state public institutions to be subject to certain standards; and designating certain lead agencies for certain education and training activity.

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

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

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; and

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

B. All private ~~educational institution~~ and out-of-state public degree-granting institutions shall be accredited under rules promulgated and adopted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education unless such institution is accredited by a national or

1 regional accrediting agency which is recognized by the Secretary of
2 the United States Department of Education as a reliable authority as
3 to the quality of education or training offered by institutions of
4 higher education for the purposes of the Higher Education Act of
5 1965, as amended. To operate as a degree-granting institution,
6 private institutions that do not participate in the Oklahoma Tuition
7 Equalization Grant program and out-of-state public institutions
8 shall abide by policies and procedures that are established by the
9 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The policies and
10 procedures shall include a complaint process provision, standards
11 for operation, stipulations for a written enrollment agreement
12 between the institution and the student and reporting requirements.
13 Private institutions not participating in the Oklahoma Tuition
14 Equalization Grant program that engage in non-degree-granting
15 activity and out-of-state public institutions that engage in non-
16 degree-granting activity shall be subject to standards administered
17 by the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools. If an
18 institution, as described in this section, engages in both degree-
19 granting and non-degree-granting activity, the Oklahoma State
20 Regents for Higher Education shall be the lead agency for all degree
21 matters, and the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools shall
22 be the lead agency for all non-degree matters.

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