

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 SENATE BILL 1009

By: Sparks

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to private schools; amending Section
8 4, Chapter 276, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017,
9 Section 21-102.1), which relates to duties of the
10 Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools;
11 authorizing the Board to establish certain
12 equivalency program; requiring licensed private
13 schools to adhere to certain program; providing an
14 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 276, O.S.L.
17 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 21-102.1), is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 Section 21-102.1. The Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational
20 Schools is authorized to:

21 1. Appoint and fix the compensation of a director who:

22 a. shall employ and fix the duties and compensation of
23 such clerical or other assistants as are reasonably
24 necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act,
and

b. may execute contracts on behalf of the Board;

1 2. Promulgate rules to include but not be limited to the
2 implementation of minimum standards for the operation of private
3 schools and the application of a school, seminar or workshop for a
4 license of state authorization;

5 3. Approve or disapprove:
6 a. applications for state authorization,
7 b. other applications for licensing,
8 c. requests for exemption, and
9 d. requests for a definition exception;

10 4. Issue a private school license to document state
11 authorization or other licensing upon determination that such school
12 meets the standards fixed by the Board;

13 5. Prescribe, except as is otherwise provided by law and
14 subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, such
15 penalties as it may deem proper for the enforcement of this act, not
16 to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);

17 6. Fix minimum standards for private schools, which shall
18 include standards for courses of instruction and training,
19 qualifications of instructors, financial stability, advertising
20 practices, and refund of tuition and fees paid by students for
21 courses of instruction or training not completed, and shall
22 promulgate and adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the
23 implementation of such minimum standards for the operation of
24 private schools;

1 7. Where possible, to regulate degrees offered by distance
2 education, make use of the State Regents for Higher Education's
3 interstate reciprocity agreements to create a more efficient and
4 cost-effective means of the regulation of private schools;

5 8. Create and maintain an equivalency program for courses
6 offered at private schools it licenses, to which licensed private
7 schools shall adhere to maintain licensure;

8 9. Make use of interstate reciprocity agreements that
9 reasonably satisfy the Board's minimum standards to approve state
10 authorization or other license application, if such agreements
11 become available for other programs the Board approves for state
12 authorization or other license;

13 ~~9.~~ 10. Require an entity to repay any fees charged to the Board
14 by a financial institution or the State Treasurer for a returned
15 check or other failed form of payment;

16 ~~10.~~ 11. Develop annual compliance training to emphasize
17 standards relating to the operation of a school and relicensing
18 processes, and require attendance by a representative of each
19 school, seminar, or workshop;

20 ~~11.~~ 12. Provide all licensing forms free of charge via one or
21 more electronic means, but shall charge for the pick up or mailing
22 of a hard-copy licensing application packet to a person requesting
23 information about private school licensing requirements;

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1 ~~12.~~ 13. Certify an electronic record or the printing of an
2 electronically stored record as an original, subject to approval by
3 the Oklahoma Archives and Records Commission and when in accordance
4 with the record retention and destruction policy of the Board;

5 ~~13.~~ 14. Collect or require the submission of data, including
6 but not limited to:

- 7 a. admissions,
- 8 b. certification scores or passage rates,
- 9 c. complaints or grievances,
- 10 d. enrollment,
- 11 e. funding,
- 12 f. graduation,
- 13 g. job longevity or retention,
- 14 h. job placement, and
- 15 i. other data, as necessary, to carry on the mission or
16 duties of the Board, or to assist in the state's
17 workforce development initiatives; and

18 ~~14.~~ 15. Carry out such other duties as necessary to provide
19 state authorization for private vocational schools, seminars, and
20 workshops and such other schools that make offerings of courses or
21 programs as permitted by this act.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2018.

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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