

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

SENATE BILL NO. 49

By: Ikley-Freeman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to private schools; amending Section 4, Chapter 276, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 21-102.1), which relates to duties of the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools; authorizing the Board to require written disclosure of certain employment and wage information in certain format; updating statutory references; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 276, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 21-102.1), is amended to read as follows:

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

1. Appoint and fix the compensation of a director who:
 - a. shall employ and fix the duties and compensation of such clerical or other assistants as are reasonably necessary to effectuate the provisions of ~~this act~~ Sections 21-101 through 21-116 of this title, 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~~
16 Sections 21-101 through 21-116 of this title, not to exceed One
17 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 13. Collect or require the submission of data, ~~including but~~
4 ~~not~~ and require the written disclosure to prospective students and
5 current students selected information pertinent to likely future
6 employment and wages in a readable format with a maximum eighth-
7 grade reading level. The data shall include but not be limited to:

- 8 a. admissions,
- 9 b. certification scores or passage rates,
- 10 c. complaints or grievances,
- 11 d. enrollment,
- 12 e. funding,
- 13 f. graduation,
- 14 g. job longevity or retention,
- 15 h. job placement, ~~and~~
- 16 i. likely wages immediately upon graduation,
- 17 j. likely wages five (5) years after graduation, and
- 18 k. other data, as necessary, to carry on the mission or
19 duties of the Board, or to assist in the state's
20 workforce development initiatives; and

21 14. Carry out such other duties as necessary to provide state
22 authorization for private vocational schools, seminars, and
23 workshops and such other schools that make offerings of courses or
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1 programs as permitted by ~~this act~~ Sections 21-101 through 21-116 of
2 this title.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.
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