

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

SENATE BILL NO. 757

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 establish certain equivalency program; requiring licensed private schools to adhere to certain program; updating statutory references; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 21-201 through 21-203 of this title, and

1 b. may execute contracts on behalf of the Board;

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

6 3. Approve or disapprove:

7 a. applications for state authorization,

8 b. other applications for licensing,

9 c. requests for exemption, and

10 d. requests for a definition exception;

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

14 5. Prescribe, except as is otherwise provided by law and
15 subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, such
16 penalties as it may deem proper for the enforcement of ~~this act~~
17 Sections 21-201 through 21-203 of this title, not to exceed One
18 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);

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

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. Create and maintain an equivalency program for courses
8 offered at private schools it licenses, to which licensed private
9 schools shall adhere to maintain licensure. The equivalency program
10 shall apply to any program or course that is intended to assist the
11 student in obtaining licensure by any licensing board in this state;

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

17 ~~9.~~ 10. Require an entity to repay any fees charged to the Board
18 by a financial institution or the State Treasurer for a returned
19 check or other failed form of payment;

20 ~~10.~~ 11. Develop annual compliance training to emphasize
21 standards relating to the operation of a school and relicensing
22 processes, and require attendance by a representative of each
23 school, seminar, or workshop;

1 ~~11.~~ 12. Provide all licensing forms free of charge via one or
2 more electronic means, but shall charge for the pick up or mailing
3 of a hard-copy licensing application packet to a person requesting
4 information about private school licensing requirements;

5 ~~12.~~ 13. Certify an electronic record or the printing of an
6 electronically stored record as an original, subject to approval by
7 the Oklahoma Archives and Records Commission and when in accordance
8 with the record retention and destruction policy of the Board;

9 ~~13.~~ 14. Collect or require the submission of data, including
10 but not limited to:

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

22 ~~14.~~ 15. Carry out such other duties as necessary to provide
23 state authorization for private vocational schools, seminars, and
24 workshops and such other schools that make offerings of courses or

1 programs as permitted by ~~this act~~ Sections 21-201 through 21-203 of
2 this title.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019.

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

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