

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 599
Version:	INT
Request No.:	1099
Author:	Sen. Stanislawski
Date:	01/25/2019

Bill Analysis

SB 599 defines “accreditation” and “accrediting entity” as it relates to the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools. “Seminar” is amended by the measure to include continuing education courses. The measure also excludes entities that offer only degrees and maintain proper approval by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and entities that maintain accreditation that does not offer degrees and provides all of its training through mechanisms of distance education from the definition of a private school.

The Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools will be authorized to create corrective action plans and issue sustained licenses to private vocational schools as well as to promulgate rules on standardizing student transcripts by the measure. The Board may regulate the operations of private schools, create mandatory training courses, arrange for the presentation of optional training for schools, and increase the required amount of surety bond or certificate of deposit for private schools. The measure further allows the Board to require private schools to suspend new enrollments in one or more programs when an approved corrective action plan is not adhered to and require the school to submit a teach-out agreement to the OBPVS.

Private schools will be required to designate an official to begin and continue to maintain student academic records or transcripts in order to obtain a license. Methods to maintain the transcripts are prescribed by the measure. Private schools are required to submit annual documentation that its student academic record plan including any applicable surety bond is current. The licensure fee is increased to \$2,160.00 for the initial license and to \$540.00 for each new branch of a private school. Renewal and review fees are also increased by the measure. Optional training courses will require payment of \$200.00 for half a day and \$300.00 for a full day. Schools will be required to pay in-state reviewing compliance fees.

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