

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 4050

By: May of the House

and

Prieto and Bullard of the
Senate

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4104, which relates to degrees from private educational institutions; providing an exemption for certain religious degrees; requiring use of a religious modifier; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Higher education

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4104, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4104. A. A private educational institution shall grant only those degrees authorized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education unless approved otherwise by a national or regional accrediting agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education or training offered by institutions of higher education for the purposes of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

B. 1. This section shall not apply to religious degrees which are used solely for religious purposes within a religious organization or any institution of higher education whose primary purpose is to provide religious training or theological education and which is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3).

2. Each degree title offered pursuant to this subsection shall include a religious modifier. The religious modifier shall be

placed on the degree, on the transcript, and wherever the title of the degree appears in official school documents or publications.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of March, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 17th day of April, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____