

1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Selecting
2 Neutral Accreditors Act".

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3252 of Title 70, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. As used in this act:

7 1. "Accreditation" means the status of public recognition that
8 an accrediting agency grants to an educational institution, program,
9 or both that meets the agency's standards and requirements;

10 2. "Accrediting agency" means a person or governmental entity
11 that conducts accrediting activities and makes decisions concerning
12 the accreditation or pre-accreditation status of institutions,
13 programs, or both. Accrediting agency includes, but is not limited
14 to, any national, regional, or programmatic accrediting agency;

15 3. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion" means any differential
16 treatment of, or assignment of any fault or blame to, an individual
17 or group at an institution of higher education based on race, color,
18 ethnicity, national origin except as it relates to immigration
19 status under United States law, sex except as related to sex-
20 segregated facilities such as dormitories and bathrooms, or athletic
21 programs, sexual orientation, or gender identity;

22 4. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion practice or procedure"
23 means any initiative, policy, program, mandate, requirement,
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1 standard, metric, statistic, or other practice or procedure related
2 to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

3 5. "Institution of higher education" means a state educational
4 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
5 including all of the state educational institution's programs,
6 departments, divisions, offices, centers, colleges, and schools and
7 any person acting on behalf of any of the state educational
8 institution's programs, departments, divisions, offices, centers,
9 colleges, and schools.

10 B. On or before July 1, 2027, the board of regents of each
11 institution of higher education shall review each of its accrediting
12 agencies to determine if any such agencies have adopted or used in
13 the past five (5) years any diversity, equity, and inclusion
14 practice or procedure in connection with accreditation. If so, the
15 board of regents shall promptly:

16 1. Begin the process to change to an accrediting agency that
17 has not adopted or used any diversity, equity, and inclusion
18 practice or procedure in the past five (5) years; or

19 2. If there is no accrediting agency that meets the requirement
20 of paragraph 1 of this subsection for an institution or program, the
21 board of regents shall promptly:

22 a. report the findings to the Speaker of the Oklahoma
23 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore
24 of the Oklahoma State Senate,

1 b. review at least annually whether a qualifying
2 accreditor exists, and

3 c. if such an accreditor exists, promptly begin the
4 process to change to such accreditor.

5 C. Prior to beginning any new accreditation or pre-
6 accreditation process or renewal, the board of regents of each
7 institution of higher education shall review applicable accreditors
8 that could be selected and select an accrediting agency that has not
9 adopted or used any diversity, equity, and inclusion practice or
10 procedure in the preceding five (5) years from the date the
11 accreditation or pre-accreditation process or renewal commences. If
12 there is no accrediting agency that meets this requirement, the
13 board of regents shall proceed with the requirements in paragraph 2
14 of subsection B of this section.

15 D. If an accrediting agency fails to fully respond to a request
16 by the board of regents or the Attorney General under this act,
17 including a voluntary request for information, there shall be a
18 presumption that the accrediting agency adopted or used a diversity,
19 equity, and inclusion practice or procedure within the preceding
20 five (5) years for purposes of this section. The Attorney General
21 shall provide notice to the board of regents and accrediting agency
22 of the Attorney General's determination of such failure to respond
23 and a ten-day opportunity to cure such failure.

1 E. Any agreement or understanding between an institution of
2 higher education or the board of regents and an accrediting agency
3 to circumvent or otherwise violate this act shall be void. The
4 Attorney General shall have the same investigative and enforcement
5 powers as are provided in the Oklahoma Deceptive Trade Practices Act
6 related to any institution of higher education, accrediting agency,
7 or person for which there is reason to believe the institution,
8 accrediting agency, or person violated or participated in the
9 violation of this act.

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OVERSIGHT, dated
13 02/26/2026 - DO PASS.
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