An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1157

By: Bice of the Senate

and

Henke of the House

An Act relating to higher education accreditation; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 4103, which relates to accreditation of private institutions; providing definitions; requiring private and out-of-state public degree-granting institutions to be authorized according to certain policies and procedures established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; providing limitation on procedures; providing certain exemptions; directing certain institutions engaged in certain activities to be subject to standards administered by the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools.

SUBJECT: Higher education accreditation

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 4103, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4103. ~~A~~ A. As used in this section:

1. "Degree-granting institution" means an institution that offers education leading to an associate's degree or higher;

2. "Non-degree-granting activity" means offering education or training that does not lead to an associate's degree or higher; and

3. "State authorization reciprocity agreement" means an agreement among states, districts and territories that establishes comparable standards for providing distance education from their postsecondary educational institutions to out-of-state students.

B. All private ~~educational institution~~ and out-of-state public degree-granting institutions shall be accredited ~~under rules promulgated and adopted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education unless such institution is accredited~~ 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. Additionally, for the purposes of consumer protection and to maintain financial eligibility for Title IV funding as described in 34 CFR Part 600, institutions shall be authorized according to the policies and procedures established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. These policies and procedures shall be limited to a complaint process provision, standards for operation, stipulations for a written enrollment agreement between the institution and the student and reporting requirements. The following institutions shall be exempt from this section:

1. Private institutions participating in the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant program; and

2. Out-of-state public and private institutions participating in a state authorization reciprocity agreement that only conduct activities in Oklahoma that are acceptable under the terms and conditions of the state authorization reciprocity agreement.

C. Non-exempt institutions engaged in non-degree granting activities, such as offering certificates and diplomas, shall be subject to the standards administered by the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools.

Passed the Senate the 10th day of March, 2016.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 19th day of April, 2016.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 20th
day of April, 20 16, at 4:45 o'clock P M.
By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 26th
day of April, 20 16, at 2:34 o'clock P M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 26th
day of April, 20 16, at 3:24 o'clock P. M.
By: Chris Benge