

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE BILL 1971

By: Brumbaugh

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
8 2011, Section 4104, which relates to degrees offered  
9 by private institutions; exempting from certain  
10 requirements religious degrees issued by certain  
11 institutions; requiring religious degrees and  
12 associated documents to contain certain modifier;  
13 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
14 emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 4104, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

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

1        B. 1. This section shall not apply to religious degrees which  
2 are used solely for religious purposes within a religious  
3 organization or any institution of higher education whose primary  
4 purpose is to provide religious training or theological education  
5 and which is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of  
6 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section  
7 501(c)(3).

8        2. Each degree title offered pursuant to this subsection shall  
9 include a religious modifier. The religious modifier must be placed  
10 on the degree, on the transcript, and wherever the title of the  
11 degree appears in official school documents or publications.

12        SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

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

17  
18        55-1-6577            KB            01/21/15  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24