

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 6, 2024

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1207

By: Prieto

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6 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.
7 2021, Section 4104, which relates to degrees offered
8 by private institutions; exempting from certain
9 requirements religious degrees issued by certain
10 institutions; requiring religious degrees and
11 associated documents to contain certain modifier;
12 providing an effective date; and declaring an
13 emergency.

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

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

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

B. 1. This section shall not apply to religious degrees which
are used solely for religious purposes within a religious

1 organization or any institution of higher education whose primary
2 purpose is to provide religious training or theological education
3 and which is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of
4 Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section
5 501(c) (3) .

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

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

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

15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
16 February 6, 2024 - DO PASS

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