

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 4050

By: May of the House

3 and

4 Prieto of the Senate

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6 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.
7 2021, Section 4104, which relates to degrees from
8 private educational institutions; providing an
9 exemption for certain religious degrees; requiring
10 use of a religious modifier; providing an effective
11 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

23 B. 1. This section shall not apply to religious degrees which
24 are used solely for religious purposes within a religious
organization or any institution of higher education whose primary

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

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

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

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

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

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2024.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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