

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 26, 2024

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
4 BILL NO. 4050

By: May of the House

5 and

6 Prieto of the Senate

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

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 shall be  
10 placed on the degree, on the transcript, and wherever the title of  
11 the degree appears in official school documents or publications.

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

13        SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
14 of the public peace, health or 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 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
18 March 26, 2024 - DO PASS  
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