

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 4050

By: May

AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

Section 4104. A. A private educational institution shall grant only those degrees authorized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education unless approved otherwise 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.

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.

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