

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1207

By: Prieto, Hamilton, and
Bullard of the Senate

3 and

4 May of the House

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7 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.
8 2021, 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. 2021, 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 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.

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1 Passed the Senate the 20th day of February, 2024.

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4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2024.

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9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives