

HOUSE BILL 1128

By DeBerry

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 7, Part 20, relative to postsecondary  
education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-2003, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

( ) “University” means a postsecondary educational institution authorized by an accreditor approved by the United States department of education to confer undergraduate and graduate or professional degrees.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 20, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) An accredited postsecondary educational institution may not use the word “university” in its name unless the institution:

(1) Meets the definition of “university” in § 49-7-2003;

(2) Has been approved by an accrediting body recognized by the United States department of education to offer graduate or professional degree level programs; and

(3) Offers or is seeking approval to offer at least one (1) graduate degree program.

(b) An institution approved by an accrediting body recognized by the United States department of education may confer academic degrees that are commonly accepted and approved by postsecondary educational institutions in this state. No postsecondary educational institution under this part shall confer academic degrees or

specialized degrees unless the postsecondary educational institution has been approved by an accrediting body recognized by the United States department of education to offer degree level programs.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.