

By the Committee on Education and Senator Grant

304-718-98

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to academic degrees; amending s. 817.567, F.S.; providing for disclosure of unrecognized degrees; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 817.567, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

817.567 Making false claims of academic degree or title.--

(2) A No person awarded a doctorate degree from an institution not listed in subsection (1) may not ~~shall~~ claim in the state, either orally or in writing, the title "Dr." before the person's name or any mark, appellation, or series of letters, numbers, or words, such as, but not limited to, "Ph.D.," "Ed.D.," "D.N.," or "N.D.," ~~"D.Th."~~ which signifies, purports, or is generally taken to signify satisfactory completion of the requirements of a doctorate degree, after the person's name, unless the person discloses that the degree was granted by an institution not recognized by the state or by the Federal Government. This disclosure must be made immediately in conjunction with and to the same level of prominence as the claim.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SB 96

The Committee Substitute differs from Senate Bill 96 in that it would require the disclosure to be immediately in conjunction with and at the same level of prominence as the claim to a doctorate degree.