

By Senator Oelrich

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nonpublic postsecondary educational
3 institutions; amending s. 1005.32, F.S.; revising the
4 criteria for licensure by means of accreditation for
5 an independent postsecondary educational institution;
6 requiring that, in order to maintain its license, an
7 institution file a report with the Commission for
8 Independent Education which includes the results of a
9 site visit performed by an accrediting agency;
10 requiring that each institution request such site
11 visits; authorizing the commission to request a site
12 visit performed by an accrediting agency; providing an
13 effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Subsection (1) and present subsection (3) of
18 section 1005.32, Florida Statutes, are amended, present
19 subsections (3) through (7) are redesignated as subsections (4)
20 through (8), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to
21 that section, to read:

22 1005.32 Licensure by means of accreditation.—

23 (1) An independent postsecondary educational institution
24 that meets the following criteria may apply for a license by
25 means of accreditation from the commission:

26 (a) The institution has operated legally in this state for
27 at least 5 consecutive years.

28 (b) The institution holds institutional accreditation by an
29 accrediting agency evaluated and approved by the commission as

14-01112B-09

20092096__

30 having reporting, organizational, and operating standards
31 substantially equivalent to the commission's licensure
32 standards.

33 (c) The institution has no unresolved complaints or actions
34 in the past 12 months.

35 (d) The institution meets minimum requirements for
36 financial responsibility as determined by the commission.

37 ~~(e) The institution is a Florida corporation.~~

38 (3) Beginning January 1, 2010, in order to maintain a
39 license by means of accreditation, each licensed institution
40 shall provide the commission with a site report prepared by its
41 accrediting agency which includes a visit to each location
42 licensed in the state. Each institution shall be responsible for
43 requesting periodic site visits and shall file the site report,
44 prepared by the accrediting agency, with the commission. The
45 commission, at its discretion, may request a site visit to be
46 performed by the accrediting agency.

47 (4)~~(3)~~ Except as provided in subsection (3), the commission
48 may not require an institution granted a license by means of
49 accreditation to submit reports that differ from the reports
50 required by its accrediting association, except that each
51 institution must file with the commission an annual audit report
52 and follow the commission's requirements for orderly closing,
53 including provisions for trainout or refunds and arranging for
54 the proper disposition of student and institutional records.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.