

By the Committee on Higher Education; and Senator Oelrich

589-04447-09

20092096c1

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.

14  
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

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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) (a) In order to maintain a license by means of  
39 accreditation, each licensed institution shall:

40 1. Provide to the commission, on or before January 1, 2010,  
41 a site report prepared by its accrediting agency which includes  
42 a visit to each location licensed in the state.

43 2. Request affirmation site visits as necessary to maintain  
44 its accreditation and file with the commission the site report  
45 prepared by the accrediting agency which shall include a visit  
46 to each location licensed in the state.

47 (b) The commission, at its discretion, may request a site  
48 visit to be performed by the accrediting agency for purposes of  
49 investigating any suspected violation of this chapter or rule of  
50 the commission.

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

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