

By Senator Bean

4-00438A-14

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to faith-based institutions; amending  
3           s. 1005.06, F.S.; exempting a faith-based institution  
4           from the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for  
5           Independent Education; authorizing the commission to  
6           retain governmental oversight of a faith-based  
7           institution's compliance with fair consumer practices;  
8           requiring a faith-based institution to submit an  
9           affidavit to the commission; requiring the commission  
10          to provide a faith-based institution a certificate of  
11          authorization; exempting certain faith-based  
12          institutions from complying with fair consumer  
13          practices; providing an effective date.  
14

15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
16

17           Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section  
18          1005.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19           1005.06 Institutions not under the jurisdiction or purview  
20          of the commission.—

21           (1) Except as otherwise provided in law, the following  
22          institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the  
23          commission and are not required to obtain licensure:

24           (f) A faith-based, degree-granting entity, institute,  
25          college, university, or seminary, hereinafter referred to as a  
26          "faith-based institution," which is not funded by the  
27          government, offers postsecondary education, and is domiciled in  
28          this state or provides classroom instruction at a physical  
29          location in this state. However, the commission shall retain A

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30 ~~religious college may operate without governmental oversight of~~  
31 ~~a faith-based institution's requirement to comply with fair~~  
32 ~~consumer practices under s. 1005.04. Therefore, a faith-based~~  
33 ~~institution shall if the college annually verify verifies by~~  
34 ~~sworn or affirmed affidavit to the commission that:~~

35 ~~1. The name of the institution includes a religious~~  
36 ~~modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, person, or~~  
37 ~~symbol of the church.~~

38 ~~2. The institution offers only educational programs that~~  
39 ~~prepare students for religious vocations as ministers,~~  
40 ~~professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry,~~  
41 ~~counseling, theology, education, administration, music, fine~~  
42 ~~arts, media communications, or social work.~~

43 ~~3. The titles of degrees issued by the institution cannot~~  
44 ~~be confused with secular degree titles. For this purpose, each~~  
45 ~~degree title must include a religious modifier that immediately~~  
46 ~~precedes, or is included within, any of the following degrees:~~  
47 ~~Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts,~~  
48 ~~Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor~~  
49 ~~of Philosophy, and Doctor of Education. The religious modifier~~  
50 ~~must be placed on the title line of the degree, on the~~  
51 ~~transcript, and whenever the title of the degree appears in~~  
52 ~~official school documents or publications.~~

53 ~~1.4.~~ The duration of all degree programs offered by the  
54 faith-based institution is consistent with the standards of the  
55 commission.

56 ~~2.5.~~ The faith-based institution's consumer practices are  
57 consistent with those required by s. 1005.04, excluding s.  
58 1005.04(1)(g) and rule 6E-5.001, Florida Administrative Code.

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59 The commission shall ~~may~~ provide the faith-based ~~such a~~  
60 ~~religious~~ institution a certificate of authorization ~~letter~~  
61 ~~stating that the institution has met the requirements of state~~  
62 ~~law and is not subject to governmental oversight.~~

63  
64 A faith-based institution pursuant to this paragraph which  
65 issues only nondegree certificates is exempt from the  
66 requirement to comply with fair consumer practices under s.  
67 1005.04, and such certificates are not transferable to a degree-  
68 granting college or university.

69 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.