

AN ACT

ENTITLED, An Act to prohibit the offering of postsecondary education credit or degree by nonaccredited institutions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That chapter 13-49 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

No person or governmental entity may offer postsecondary education credit or degree in South Dakota, or while organized under the laws of South Dakota, unless currently holding accreditation from a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1099b as amended to January 1, 2001, or participating in any federal financial assistance program authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended to January 1, 2001. A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor and subjects the violator to a civil penalty of twenty-five thousand dollars.

The provisions of this section do not apply to a religious institution that offers credit or degree solely for the purpose of conferring status or authority within that religion.

An Act to prohibit the offering of postsecondary education credit or degree by nonaccredited institutions.

=====

I certify that the attached Act originated in the

SENATE as Bill No. 160

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

=====

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

Senate Bill No. 160  
File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

=====

Received at this Executive Office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ ,

20\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
for the Governor

=====

The attached Act is hereby approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ , A.D., 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

=====

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,  
ss.

Office of the Secretary of State

Filed \_\_\_\_\_ , 20\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Secretary of State