
SENATE BILL 6371

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1994 Regular Session

By Senators Bauer, Prince, Sheldon, Winsley and Drew

Read first time 01/20/94. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to degree-granting authority; amending RCW
2 28B.85.020 and 28B.85.040; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.85
3 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.85.020 and 1986 c 136 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The board:

8 (1) Shall adopt by rule minimum standards for degree-granting
9 institutions concerning granting of degrees, quality of education,
10 unfair business practices, financial stability, and other necessary
11 measures to protect citizens of this state against substandard,
12 fraudulent, or deceptive practices. The board shall adopt the rules in
13 accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW;

14 (2) May investigate any entity the board reasonably believes to be
15 subject to the jurisdiction of this chapter. In connection with the
16 investigation, the board may administer oaths and affirmations, issue
17 subpoenas and compel attendance, take evidence, and require the
18 production of any books, papers, correspondence, memorandums, or other
19 records which the board deems relevant or material to the

1 investigation. The board, including its staff and any other authorized
2 persons, may conduct site inspections and examine records of all
3 institutions subject to this chapter;

4 (3) Shall develop an interagency agreement with the (~~commission~~
5 ~~for vocational education or its successor agency~~) work force training
6 and education coordinating board to regulate degree-granting private
7 vocational schools with respect to degree and nondegree programs.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.85.040 and 1986 c 136 s 4 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) An institution or person shall not advertise, offer, sell, or
11 award a degree or any other type of educational credential unless the
12 student has enrolled in and successfully completed a prescribed program
13 of study, as outlined in the institution's publications. This
14 prohibition shall not apply to honorary credentials clearly designated
15 as such on the front side of the diploma or certificate and awarded by
16 institutions offering other educational credentials in compliance with
17 state law.

18 (2) Except as provided in subsection (1) of this section, this
19 chapter shall not apply to:

20 (a) Any public college, university, community college, technical
21 college, or institute or other entity operating as part of the public
22 higher educational system of this state.

23 (b) Institutions that have been accredited by an accrediting
24 association recognized by the agency for the purposes of this chapter,
25 provided that an institution, branch, extension, or facility operating
26 within the state of Washington which is affiliated with an institution
27 operating in another state must be a separately accredited member
28 institution of any such accrediting association to qualify for this
29 exemption.

30 (c) Institutions of a religious character, but only as to those
31 education programs devoted exclusively to religious or theological
32 objectives if the programs are represented in an accurate manner in
33 institutional catalogs and other official publications.

34 (d) Institutions not otherwise exempt which offer only workshops or
35 seminars lasting no longer than three calendar days and for which
36 academic credit is not awarded.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.85 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The board shall maintain and administer an account in the
4 tuition recovery trust fund established under RCW 43.84.092 as a means
5 to establish surety for any student of a degree-granting private
6 vocational school's degree programs authorized under this chapter.

7 (2) The board shall, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, adopt
8 rules to maintain and administer its account in the tuition recovery
9 trust fund established under RCW 43.84.092.

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