

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 156

Nonpublic Postsecondary Institutions/Accreditation by Senator Ring

Requires that a licensed independent postsecondary educational institution notify the Commission for Independent Education of changes in its accreditation status.

Revises criteria concerning the standards by which the commission evaluates institutions for licensure. Requires that an institution become accredited within five years after the date it is first licensed. Requires a licensed institution that is not accredited to include that information on its website. Provides that academic degrees conferred by an institution before it secures accreditation may be recognized by other postsecondary educational institutions in this state, only if the institution secures accreditation within the required period. Requires that an institution notify the Department of Education (DOE) and the Office of the Attorney General, in writing, of its progress in obtaining accreditation. Requires that an institution use nationally recognized standards in determining whether to grant a student credit for prior work or life experience. Requires compliance with laws concerning the annual reporting of crime statistics. Requires that such reports be made available to the public by each institution.

Requires the commission to maintain, on its website, a current list of the institutions that are licensed and that hold accreditation. Requires the DOE and the Office of the Attorney General to maintain a link to the commission's list on their respective websites.

Requires that the commission revoke the license or authorization of an institution that fails to become or remain accredited. (See bill for details)