

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

As Engrossed: S4/2/13  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1297

5 By: Representative Gillam  
6 By: Senator Rapert  
7

### For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING A  
10 HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITING AGENCY IN ARKANSAS; AND  
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
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### Subtitle

15 ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
16 ESTABLISHING A HIGHER EDUCATION  
17 ACCREDITING AGENCY IN ARKANSAS.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-136 is amended to read as follows:  
23 6-61-136. Establishment of an accrediting agency.

24 (a) ~~An~~ Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an  
25 individual shall not establish or operate an accrediting agency for  
26 institutions of higher education in this state without recognition by the  
27 United States Department of Education.

28 (b) This section does not apply to an accrediting agency that:

29 (1) Accredits only schools operated solely to provide programs  
30 of study that prepare students for religious vocations as ministers,  
31 professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry, counseling,  
32 theology, education administration, music, fine arts, or media  
33 communications;

34 (2) Accredits only institutions whose names include a religious  
35 modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, religious person, or  
36 symbol of the church;



1           (3) Accredits only institutions whose degree titles include a  
2 religious modifier that:

3           (A) Immediately precedes or is included within any of the  
4 following degrees:

5                   (i) Associate of Arts;

6                   (ii) Associate of Science;

7                   (iii) Bachelor of Arts;

8                   (iv) Bachelor of Science;

9                   (v) Master of Arts;

10                   (vi) Master of Science;

11                   (vii) Doctor of Philosophy; or

12                   (viii) Doctor of Education; and

13           (B) Is placed on the title line of the degree, on the  
14 transcript, and whenever the title of the degree appears in official school  
15 documents or publications; and

16           (4) Does not accredit any institution that receives federal  
17 funding.

18           (c) An institution accredited under subsection (b) of this section  
19 shall:

20                   (1) Notify students in writing that courses completed and a  
21 degree obtained at the institution are not transferable to an institution of  
22 higher education accredited through the United States Department of  
23 Education; and

24                   (2)(A) Obtain the student's signature acknowledging that the  
25 student has been informed and understands the notification.

26                   (B) The institution shall maintain the acknowledgment  
27 signed by the student as part of the student's record.

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29                                   /s/Gillam

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32                                   **APPROVED: 04/08/2013**