Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2015

HOUSE BILL NO. 1045
(Legislative Management)
(Higher Education Funding Committee)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-18.1 and a new section to chapter 15-20.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to postsecondary educational institution and postsecondary career school course and program compliance with professional registration and certification requirements; and to amend and reenact sections 15-18.1-05 and 15-20.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to minimum standards to operate postsecondary education institutions and postsecondary career schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15-18.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-18.1-05. Minimum standards.

All postsecondary educational institutions must be accredited by national or regional accrediting agencies recognized by the United States department of education. The board may additionally require such further evidence and make such further investigation as in its judgment may be necessary. Any postsecondary educational institution operating in this state seeking its first authorization to operate may be issued a provisional authorization to operate on an annual basis until the institution becomes eligible for accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency. Institutions issued a provisional authorization to operate must demonstrate a substantial good-faith showing of progress toward such status. Only upon accreditation may an institution become eligible for a regular authorization to operate. An institution shall give written notification to the board within thirty days of any change to the institution's accreditation status.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 15-18.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Compliance with professional board registration and certification requirements.

A postsecondary educational institution shall give written notification to potential students applying for enrollment in a course or program that customarily leads to professional registration or certification of the status of the course or program compliance with the registration or certification requirements of the appropriate professional board in the state. A postsecondary educational institution shall give written notification to all students enrolled in a program or course that customarily leads to professional registration or certification of any change in the status of the course or program compliance with the registration or certification requirements of the appropriate professional board in the state.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 15-20.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-20.4-04. Minimum standards - Exceptions.

1. All postsecondary career schools must be accredited by national or regional accrediting agencies recognized by the United States department of education. The board may additionally require such further evidence and make such further investigation as in its judgment may be necessary. Any postsecondary career school operating in this state seeking its first authorization to operate may be issued a provisional authorization to operate on an annual basis until the school becomes eligible for accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency. Schools issued a provisional authorization to operate must demonstrate a substantial

good-faith showing of progress toward such status. Only upon accreditation shall a school become eligible for a regular authorization to operate. A school shall give written notification to the board within thirty days of any change to the school's accreditation status.

2. This section does not apply to postsecondary career schools operating in this state that do not grant degrees and that offer mainly hands-on training in low census occupations, as determined by the board. "Degree" as used in this subsection means a document that provides evidence or demonstrates completion of a course of instruction that results in the attainment of a rank or level of associate or higher.

SECTION 4. A new section to chapter 15-20.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Compliance with professional board registration and certification requirements.

A postsecondary career school shall give written notification to potential students applying for enrollment in a course or program that customarily leads to professional registration or certification of the status of the course or program compliance with the registration or certification requirements of the appropriate professional board in the state. A postsecondary career school shall give written notification to all students enrolled in a program or course that customarily leads to professional registration or certification of any change in the status of the course or program compliance with the registration or certification requirements of the appropriate professional board in the state.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1045.

House Vote:	Yeas 92	Nays 0	Absent 2
Senate Vote:	Yeas 46	Nays 0	Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 11:40 A.M. on March 11, 2015.

Approved at 1:22 P.M. on March 12, 2015.

Governor

Filed in this office this 12th day of March, 2015,

at 4:25 o'clock P M.

Secretary of State