

HB 212 -- Proprietary Schools

Sponsor: Thomson

Currently, the annual fee for certification of a proprietary school is a percentage of the school's net tuition and fees income, with a minimum and maximum amount per school. Beginning July 1, 2012, this bill requires the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education to establish fees to cover all of the costs associated with the operation of the Proprietary School Certification Program with the advice of the Proprietary School Advisory Committee. The board may also assess a reasonable late fee for a school not completing its renewal on time. The Proprietary School Certification Fund is created for the deposit of the certification and late fees.

The board is also given the authority to approve new or revised instructional programs for a proprietary school based on standards established by the board with advice from its advisory committee. Institutional accreditation from a federally recognized accrediting agency is required for degree-level programs, but criteria for approval do not require a description of the demand for a program or a survey of duplicate programs. If a proprietary school violates the provisions of the statutes regulating it, any action authorized in Section 407.020, RSMo, regarding unlawful merchandising practices may be taken.