

HB 829 -- Names of Higher Education Institutions

Sponsor: Smith (85)

This bill prohibits the use of the word "university" in the name of a higher education institution unless the institution has been so approved by a regional accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The use of the word "college" also requires the regional accreditation or an appropriate qualifier such as "career" or "bible." A new institution authorized after August 28, 2013, that uses the word "college" must achieve regional accreditation in a timely fashion while demonstrating consistent good faith effort to attain accreditation and may be permitted to use the word initially upon demonstrating its capability of achieving regional accreditation.

A community college must maintain a current articulation agreement with a regionally accredited college or university in order to use the name "community college." Loss of the articulation agreement will require the removal of the term from the institution's title.

Any institution failing to make timely good faith efforts to comply with the provisions of the bill must change its title.