

private postsecondary education; nondomiciled institutions

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

CHAPTER 158

SENATE BILL 1210

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 32-3001, 32-3021 AND 32-3022, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 32, CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 32-3024; AMENDING SECTIONS 32-3071, 32-3072 AND 32-3075, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 32-3001, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 32-3001. Definitions

5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Accredited" means accredited by an accrediting agency ~~THAT IS~~
7 recognized by the United States department of education.

8 2. "Board" means the state board for private postsecondary
9 education.

10 3. "Degree" means an academic degree or honorary degree or the
11 title of any designation, mark, appellation, series of letters or words,
12 including associate, bachelor, master, doctor or fellow, ~~which THAT~~
13 signifies, purports to signify or is generally taken to signify
14 satisfactory completion of the requirements of an educational program of
15 study beyond the secondary school level or ~~which THAT~~ is an honorary title
16 conferred for recognition of some meritorious achievement.

17 4. "Grant" means ~~TO~~ award, bestow, confer, convey or sell.

18 ~~5. "Operate" means to establish, keep, maintain or utilize a
19 physical facility, location or mailing address in this state where, from
20 which or through which students are procured for private vocational or
21 private degree programs, private vocational or private degree programs are
22 offered or private vocational credentials or private degrees are offered
23 or granted and includes contracting for the performance of any of these
24 acts.~~

25 5. "OPERATE" MEANS TO EITHER:

26 (a) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THIS STATE,
27 INCLUDING A FACILITY, LOCATION OR MAILING ADDRESS, AND AN IN-STATE
28 DIRECTOR.

29 (b) PROVIDE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THROUGH ONLINE DISTANCE
30 EDUCATION TO A PERSON WHO RESIDES IN THIS STATE IF THE INSTITUTION IS NOT
31 A PARTICIPANT IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCIY
32 AGREEMENTS.

33 6. "Private vocational program" means an instructional program
34 ~~which THAT~~ includes a course or group of courses as defined in section
35 15-101 for which a student does not earn a degree, ~~and which THAT~~ is
36 designed to provide or is advertised as providing a student with
37 sufficient skills for entry into a paid occupation, and ~~which THAT~~ is not
38 conducted solely by a public school, public community college or public
39 university.

40 7. "OUT-OF-STATE REGISTRATION" MEANS AN AUTHORIZATION ISSUED BY THE
41 BOARD TO A PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION DOMICILED OUTSIDE
42 OF THIS STATE THAT ENROLLS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE IN AN ONLINE PROGRAM
43 WHEN THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION IS NOT A PARTICIPANT
44 IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCIY AGREEMENT.

- 1 1. A licensing board or agency in any state, district, territory or
2 county of the United States or any foreign country.
- 3 2. The Arizona criminal justice information system as defined in
4 section 41-1750.
- 5 3. The federal bureau of investigation.
- 6 ~~F.~~ F. The board, on application, may issue a private vocational
7 program license to a new educational institution as provided in this
8 section, except that the board shall establish separate minimum standards
9 for licensure requirements of new educational institutions. These minimum
10 standards may include the modification of licensure requirements as
11 provided in subsection ~~B~~ C, paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this section
12 to meet the circumstances of new educational institutions. The board, on
13 application, may issue a private vocational program license to an
14 educational institution that is otherwise exempt under subsection ~~F~~ G of
15 this section. The board shall monitor the new educational institution to
16 ensure compliance with the licensure requirements. The board shall issue
17 a private vocational program license as provided in this subsection one
18 time only to new educational institutions.
- 19 ~~F.~~ G. This section does not apply to any of the following:
 - 20 1. A school licensed pursuant to chapter 5 of this title.
 - 21 2. An instructional program or course sponsored by a bona fide
22 trade association solely for its members.
 - 23 3. Privately owned academic schools engaged in the process of
24 general education that is designed to produce a level of development
25 equivalent to that necessary to meet the requirements for entrance into a
26 public community college or public university in this state and that may
27 incidentally offer technical and vocational courses as part of the
28 curriculum.
 - 29 4. Schools or private instruction conducted by any person engaged
30 in training, tutoring or teaching individuals or groups, if the
31 instruction is related to hobbies, avocations, academic improvement or
32 recreation and may only incidentally lead to gainful employment.
 - 33 5. Schools conducted by any person solely for training the person's
34 own employees.
 - 35 6. An instructional program or course offered solely for employees
36 and for the purpose of improving the employees in their employment if both
37 of the following apply:
 - 38 (a) The employee is not charged a fee.
 - 39 (b) The employer provides or funds the program or course pursuant
40 to a valid written contract between the employer and a program or course
41 provider.
 - 42 7. Training conducted pursuant to 14 Code of Federal Regulations
43 part 141.

1 8. A school that solely provides an instructional program for
2 certified nursing assistants and licensed nursing assistants and that is
3 licensed by the nursing board pursuant to section 32-1606, subsection B,
4 paragraph 11.

5 9. A professional driving training school licensed by the
6 department of transportation pursuant to chapter 23, articles 1, 2 and 3
7 of this title.

8 10. A training program approved by the board of examiners of
9 nursing care institution administrators and assisted living facility
10 managers that solely provides training for managers and caregivers of
11 assisted living facilities.

12 11. A yoga teacher training course or program or a yoga
13 instructional course or program.

14 12. A private instructional program or course that is less than
15 forty contact hours in length and that charges a fee of less than
16 \$1,000. For the purposes of this paragraph, "contact hour" means a
17 fifty-minute session of scheduled in-class or online instruction.

18 Sec. 3. Section 32-3022, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
19 read:

20 32-3022. License to grant degrees

21 A. A person doing business for profit or not for profit in this
22 state, except a public community college or public university, shall not
23 grant or offer to grant a degree to any person or operate an institution
24 ~~which~~ THAT grants or offers to grant a degree to any person unless the
25 person doing business holds a license to grant degrees issued pursuant to
26 this chapter. Each degree program offered by a holder of a license to
27 grant degrees shall be authorized on the license. The board shall
28 prescribe the manner in which the degrees, including level and subject
29 area, shall be identified on the license.

30 B. An applicant for a license to grant degrees shall have each
31 degree program it offers accredited or have institutional accreditation
32 with an accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of
33 education. The board shall prescribe appropriate evidence of
34 accreditation ~~which~~ THAT each applicant shall submit and the manner in
35 which degree programs shall be identified for institutional accreditation.

36 C. Notwithstanding subsection B of this section, an applicant for a
37 license to grant degrees ~~who~~ THAT offers a degree program ~~which~~ THAT is
38 not accredited shall meet all of the following requirements:

39 1. Application or commitment to apply for accreditation with an
40 accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of
41 education. The board shall prescribe the manner in which the applicant
42 shall demonstrate application or commitment to apply for accreditation and
43 the time periods in which the various stages of accreditation shall be
44 met.

1 (a) IF THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION IS
2 ACCREDITED, PROOF OF FINANCIAL VIABILITY PURSUANT TO RULES ADOPTED BY THE
3 BOARD THAT INCLUDES THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION'S
4 FEDERAL FINANCIAL COMPOSITE SCORE, WHICH MUST BE GREATER THAN 1.5 FOR THE
5 CURRENT YEAR.

6 (b) IF THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION IS NOT
7 ACCREDITED OR DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBDIVISION (a) OF THIS
8 PARAGRAPH, A SURETY BOND, CASH DEPOSIT OR IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT
9 PURSUANT TO SECTION 32-3023, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD. THE AMOUNT OF
10 THE SURETY BOND, CASH DEPOSIT OR IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT SHALL BE
11 BASED ON THE INSTITUTION'S PRIOR YEAR GROSS TUITION REVENUE FROM RESIDENTS
12 OF THIS STATE.

13 4. THE MOST RECENT YEAR-TO-DATE PARENT COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
14 AND THE MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IN
15 ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES. THE FINANCIAL
16 STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE A BALANCE SHEET, A
17 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS AND PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENTS.

18 5. AN EXAMPLE OF THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION'S
19 OFFICIAL STUDENT TRANSCRIPT.

20 C. A PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION THAT IS NOT
21 ACCREDITED SHALL SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE
22 BOARD:

23 1. PROGRAM INFORMATION THAT IS APPROVED BY THE PRIVATE
24 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION'S HOME STATE'S POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
25 REGULATORY AGENCY AND THAT IS OFFERED BY THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY
26 EDUCATION INSTITUTION TO RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE, INCLUDING THE CATALOG,
27 CURRICULA, COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.

28 2. A LIST OF ALL FACULTY TEACHING RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE AND
29 EVIDENCE OF THE FACULTY'S QUALIFICATIONS TO TEACH IN THE FACULTY'S
30 ASSIGNED SUBJECT AREAS.

31 3. EVIDENCE THAT ALL VOCATIONAL OR DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED MEET THE
32 MINIMUM CREDIT HOUR AND PROGRAM LENGTH STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE
33 PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION'S HOME STATE.

34 4. A SIGNED ATTESTATION FROM A RESPONSIBLE OFFICER OF THE PRIVATE
35 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION AFFIRMING THAT THE PRIVATE
36 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION WILL:

37 (a) COMPLY WITH THE BOARD'S PRO RATA REFUND POLICY AS ESTABLISHED
38 BY BOARD RULE FOR ALL STUDENTS OF THIS STATE.

39 (b) PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING NOTIFICATIONS TO STUDENTS WHO ARE
40 RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE:

41 (i) THAT THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION IS
42 REGISTERED TO OPERATE BY THE BOARD.

43 (ii) AN OUTLINE OF THE PROCEDURES STUDENTS MAY FOLLOW TO FILE A
44 COMPLAINT AGAINST THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION,
45 INCLUDING A STATEMENT THAT IF A COMPLAINT IS NOT RESOLVED TO THE STUDENT'S

1 SATISFACTION, THE STUDENT MAY CONTACT THE BOARD. THE PRIVATE
2 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR
3 THE BOARD AND SHALL ENSURE THAT STUDENTS WILL NOT BE RETALIATED AGAINST
4 FOR FILING A COMPLAINT.

5 (iii) THAT THE TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDITS EARNED AT THE PRIVATE
6 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION IS AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE
7 RECEIVING INSTITUTION.

8 (iv) FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OFFERING
9 PROGRAMS OR COURSES LEADING TO OR ADVERTISED AS LEADING TO PROFESSIONAL
10 LICENSURE, A STATEMENT OF WHETHER COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM IS SUFFICIENT
11 TO MEET LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS IN THIS STATE. IF THE PRIVATE
12 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION IS UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER A
13 PROGRAM WILL MEET THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS STATE,
14 THE NOTIFICATION SHALL STATE THAT THE PROGRAM DOES NOT SATISFY THE
15 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS STATE.

16 D. A PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION THAT IS REGISTERED
17 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL REPORT IN WRITING TO THE BOARD WITHIN
18 THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE OCCURRENCE OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

19 1. ANY CHANGE IN ACCREDITATION STATUS, INCLUDING ANY ADVERSE
20 ACTION, PROBATION OR SHOW-CAUSE ORDER BY THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY
21 EDUCATION INSTITUTION'S ACCREDITING AGENCY.

22 2. ANY SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY
23 EDUCATION INSTITUTION'S AUTHORIZATION BY THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY
24 EDUCATION INSTITUTION'S HOME STATE OR ANY OTHER STATE.

25 3. ANY MATERIAL CHANGE IN THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
26 INSTITUTION'S FINANCIAL STATUS OR A FILING FOR BANKRUPTCY.

27 4. ANY NEW EDUCATION, CONSUMER PROTECTION OR FRAUD-RELATED
28 ENFORCEMENT ACTION OR LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY
29 EDUCATION INSTITUTION BY A STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY.

30 5. ANY CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
31 INSTITUTION FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION'S
32 HOME STATE.

33 E. EACH PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION WITH
34 OUT-OF-STATE REGISTRATION SHALL MAINTAIN A STUDENT'S OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT
35 IN PERPETUITY. THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL
36 MAINTAIN A STUDENT'S ENROLLMENT AND FINANCING AGREEMENTS FOR A PERIOD OF
37 AT LEAST TEN YEARS AFTER THE STUDENT IS NO LONGER ENROLLED. ALL RECORDS
38 REQUIRED TO BE RETAINED BY THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN DIGITAL
39 FORM. WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER CLOSURE OF THE PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY
40 EDUCATION INSTITUTION, ALL STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS FOR RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE
41 SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD.

1 F. AN OUT-OF-STATE REGISTRATION FOR A PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY
2 EDUCATION INSTITUTION IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR. AN OUT-OF-STATE REGISTRATION
3 SHALL BE RENEWED ANNUALLY THROUGH AN APPLICATION APPROVED BY THE BOARD. A
4 PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL PAY A FEE IN AN AMOUNT
5 SET BY THE BOARD FOR BOTH INITIAL OUT-OF-STATE REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL OF
6 REGISTRATION.

7 Sec. 5. Section 32-3071, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
8 read:

9 32-3071. Definitions

10 In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

11 1. "Assessment" means the amount a private postsecondary education
12 institution is required to pay to the student tuition recovery fund.

13 2. "Ceasing operations" means that a private postsecondary
14 education institution has stopped offering educational courses or programs
15 to the public for any reason.

16 ~~3. "Distance learning instruction" means a written correspondence
17 or online education program for students who are enrolled in an
18 institution licensed under this chapter.~~

19 ~~4.~~ 3. "Fund" means the student tuition recovery fund.

20 ~~5.~~ 4. "Newly enrolled student" means a student who is enrolling
21 with a private postsecondary education institution for the first time.

22 ~~6.~~ 5. "Person injured" means a student of a private postsecondary
23 education institution that charges prepaid tuition to a student who is
24 damaged monetarily by the institution ceasing operations before fulfilling
25 its contractual obligations or fully providing the services that were paid
26 for in advance. Person injured does not include a nonresident student who
27 is eligible to claim for recovery under a student tuition recovery fund or
28 similar fund in the student's state of residence.

29 ~~7.~~ 6. "Prepaid tuition" means monies that are advanced to an
30 educational institution before the educational institution provides its
31 service.

32 ~~8.~~ 7. "Private postsecondary education institution" or
33 "institution" means an educational institution that is subject to
34 licensure OR OUT-OF-STATE REGISTRATION under this chapter.

35 ~~9.~~ 8. "Total course cost" means the tuition and other fees that
36 are charged by the private postsecondary education institution for each
37 course offered.

38 Sec. 6. Section 32-3072, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
39 read:

40 32-3072. Student tuition recovery fund

41 A. The student tuition recovery fund is established and shall be
42 administered by the board. A person who is injured by a private
43 postsecondary education institution ceasing operations may recover from
44 the fund an amount that does not exceed the actual damages sustained.

1 B. Each private postsecondary education institution that collects
2 prepaid tuition **AND THAT HOLDS A LICENSE OR AN OUT-OF-STATE REGISTRATION**
3 shall annually pay an assessment to the board for each newly enrolled
4 student in an amount equal to the sum of two-tenths of one percent of the
5 total course cost for each newly enrolled student, not to exceed \$10 per
6 student. A private postsecondary education institution is not required to
7 pay more than \$25,000 per annual assessment period. A private
8 postsecondary education institution is not required to pay assessments for
9 newly enrolled students who are not residents of this state and for whom
10 the institution has paid a student tuition recovery fund assessment or an
11 assessment to a similar fund in the student's state of residence. A
12 private postsecondary education institution is not required to pay
13 assessments for students who are not residents of this state ~~and who are~~
14 ~~enrolled in distance learning instruction.~~

15 C. If on June 30 of any year the balance in the fund exceeds
16 \$500,000, and on notice by the board to institutions, only institutions
17 and schools that are newly or provisionally licensed during or after that
18 fiscal year then ended shall pay the assessment.

19 Sec. 7. Section 32-3075, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
20 read:

21 32-3075. Statute of limitations; recovery from fund;
22 eligibility

23 A. A claim against the fund shall not be commenced later than one
24 year after the private postsecondary education institution has ceased
25 operations. The person injured shall submit a complaint to the board
26 outlining the circumstances surrounding the claim. The board shall
27 promptly investigate the complaint. If the complaint and claim are valid,
28 the board shall pay the claim in the amount it considers reasonable.

29 B. Any person **WHO IS** injured by a private postsecondary education
30 institution ceasing operation is eligible to submit a claim against the
31 fund unless the person is not a resident of this state ~~and is enrolled in~~
32 ~~distance learning instruction.~~

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JUNE 19, 2026.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JUNE 22, 2026.