

1 AN ACT regarding higher education.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Criminal Code of 1961 is amended by adding  
5 Section 17-2.5 as follows:

6 (720 ILCS 5/17-2.5 new)

7 Sec. 17-2.5. False academic degrees.

8 (a) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly manufacture  
9 or produce a false academic degree.

10 (b) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly use a false  
11 academic degree for the purpose of obtaining employment or  
12 admission to an institution of higher learning or admission  
13 to an advanced degree program at an institution of higher  
14 learning or for the purpose of obtaining a promotion or  
15 higher compensation in employment.

16 (c) Sentence. A person who violates this Section is  
17 guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

18 (d) In this Section:

19 "False academic degree" means a certificate, diploma,  
20 transcript, or other document purporting to be issued by an  
21 institution of higher learning or purporting to indicate that  
22 a person has completed an organized academic program of study  
23 at an institution of higher learning when the person has not  
24 completed the organized academic program of study as  
25 indicated on the certificate, diploma, transcript, or other  
26 document.

27 "Institution of higher learning" means a public or  
28 private college, university, or community college located in  
29 the State of Illinois that is authorized by the Board of  
30 Higher Education or the Illinois Community College Board to  
31 issue post-secondary degrees or is or has been legally

1 constituted to offer degrees and instruction in the State of  
2 Illinois.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
4 becoming law.