

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The Private College Act is amended by adding
5 Section 1.5 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 1005/1.5 new)

7 Sec. 1.5. Exemption from Act; nonprofit religious
8 institution.

9 (a) A nonprofit institution owned, controlled, and
10 operated and maintained by a bona fide church, religious
11 denomination, or religious organization comprised of
12 multi-denominational members of the same well-recognized
13 religion, lawfully operating as a nonprofit religious
14 corporation pursuant to the Religious Corporation Act, is
15 exempt from this Act if (i) the education is limited to
16 instruction in the principles of that church, religious
17 denomination, or religious organization or to courses offered
18 for the purpose of training the adherents of that church,
19 religious denomination, or religious organization in the care
20 of the sick in accordance with its religious tenets; (ii) the
21 diploma or degree is limited to evidence of completion of that
22 education and the meritorious recognition upon which any
23 honorary degree is conferred is limited to the principles of

1 that church, religious denomination, or religious
2 organization; and (iii) the institution's handbook for
3 students includes the following statement: "This religious
4 degree is not approved by the Illinois Board of Higher
5 Education.".

6 (b) Institutions exempt under this Section shall offer
7 degrees and diplomas only in the beliefs and practices of the
8 church, religious denomination, or religious organization. The
9 enactment of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly
10 expresses the legislative intent that this State must not
11 involve itself in the content of degree programs awarded by any
12 institution exempt under this Section, as long as the
13 institution awards degrees and diplomas only in the beliefs and
14 practices of the church, religious denomination, or religious
15 organization.

16 (c) Institutions exempt under this Section may not award
17 degrees in any area other than religion. Any degree or diploma
18 granted in any area of study under this Section shall contain
19 on its face, under the written description of the title of the
20 degree being conferred, the statement, "Not Approved by the
21 Illinois Board of Higher Education". The enactment of this
22 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly is intended to
23 prevent any entity claiming to be a nonprofit institution
24 owned, controlled, and operated and maintained by a bona fide
25 church, religious denomination, or religious organization
26 comprised of multi-denominational members of the same

1 well-recognized religion, lawfully operating as a nonprofit
2 religious corporation pursuant to the Religious Corporation
3 Act, from marketing and granting degrees or diplomas that are
4 represented as being linked to their church, religious
5 denomination, or religious organization, but which, in
6 reality, are degrees in secular areas of study.

7 (d) An institution exempt under this Section shall annually
8 file with the Board evidence to demonstrate its status as a
9 nonprofit religious corporation under the Religious
10 Corporation Act.

11 Section 10. The Academic Degree Act is amended by changing
12 Section 11 as follows:

13 (110 ILCS 1010/11) (from Ch. 144, par. 241)

14 Sec. 11. Exemptions.

15 (a) This Act shall not apply to any school or educational
16 institution regulated or approved under the Nurse Practice Act.

17 (b) This Act shall not apply to any of the following:

18 (1) ~~(a)~~ in-training programs by corporations or other
19 business organizations for the training of their
20 personnel;

21 (2) ~~(b)~~ education or other improvement programs by
22 business, trade and similar organizations and associations
23 for the benefit of their members only; or

24 (3) ~~(c)~~ apprentice or other training programs by labor

1 unions.

2 (c) A nonprofit institution owned, controlled, and
3 operated and maintained by a bona fide church, religious
4 denomination, or religious organization comprised of
5 multi-denominational members of the same well-recognized
6 religion, lawfully operating as a nonprofit religious
7 corporation pursuant to the Religious Corporation Act, is
8 exempt from this Act if (i) the education is limited to
9 instruction in the principles of that church, religious
10 denomination, or religious organization or to courses offered
11 for the purpose of training the adherents of that church,
12 religious denomination, or religious organization in the care
13 of the sick in accordance with its religious tenets; (ii) the
14 diploma or degree is limited to evidence of completion of that
15 education and the meritorious recognition upon which any
16 honorary degree is conferred is limited to the principles of
17 that church, religious denomination, or religious
18 organization; and (iii) the institution's handbook for
19 students includes the following statement: "This religious
20 degree is not approved by the Illinois Board of Higher
21 Education.".

22 Institutions exempt under this subsection (c) shall offer
23 degrees and diplomas only in the beliefs and practices of the
24 church, religious denomination, or religious organization. The
25 enactment of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly
26 expresses the legislative intent that this State must not

1 involve itself in the content of degree programs awarded by any
2 institution exempt under this subsection (c), as long as the
3 institution awards degrees and diplomas only in the beliefs and
4 practices of the church, religious denomination, or religious
5 organization.

6 Institutions exempt under this subsection (c) may not award
7 degrees in any area other than religion. Any degree or diploma
8 granted in any area of study under this subsection (c) shall
9 contain on its face, under the written description of the title
10 of the degree being conferred, the statement, "Not Approved by
11 the Illinois Board of Higher Education". The enactment of this
12 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly is intended to
13 prevent any entity claiming to be a nonprofit institution
14 owned, controlled, and operated and maintained by a bona fide
15 church, religious denomination, or religious organization
16 comprised of multi-denominational members of the same
17 well-recognized religion, lawfully operating as a nonprofit
18 religious corporation pursuant to the Religious Corporation
19 Act, from marketing and granting degrees or diplomas that are
20 represented as being linked to their church, religious
21 denomination, or religious organization, but which, in
22 reality, are degrees in secular areas of study.

23 An institution exempt under this subsection (c) shall
24 annually file with the Board evidence to demonstrate its status
25 as a nonprofit religious corporation under the Religious
26 Corporation Act.

1 (Source: P.A. 95-639, eff. 10-5-07.)

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
3 2014.