



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
STATE LEGISLATURE

Rep. Lynn Gattis

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House Finance Committee

Education Finance Subcommittee Chair

Administration Finance Subcommittee Chair

Alaska Statutes on the Regulation of Postsecondary Institutions

Sec. 14.48.010. Purposes. (a) It is the purpose of this chapter to provide for the protection, education, and welfare of the citizens of the state, its postsecondary educational institutions, and its students, by

- (1) establishing minimum standards concerning quality of education, ethical and business practices, health and safety, and fiscal responsibility, to protect against substandard, transient, unethical, deceptive, or fraudulent institutions and practices;
- (2) prohibiting the granting of false or misleading educational credentials;
- (3) regulating the use of academic terminology in designating educational institutions;
- (4) prohibiting misleading literature, advertising, solicitation, or representation by educational institutions or their agents;
- (5) providing for the preservation of essential academic records; and
- (6) providing certain rights and remedies to the public and the commission necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(b) This chapter may not be construed to preclude the development of innovative, alternative postsecondary educational delivery systems or programs if their purposes and their administration, operation, or management are in the public interest and do not conflict with those purposes set out in (a) of this section. (sec. 1 ch 25 SLA 1976)

Sec. 14.48.030. Exemptions. (a) The following educational programs, and institutions providing only the following educational programs, are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

- (1) instruction provided at a level from preschool through grade 12, including preparation for general equivalency diploma examinations;
- (2) a program operated by the United States;
- (3) a program that does not offer educational credentials and is provided only to prepare individuals to take graduate examinations; and
- (4) a program that does not offer educational credentials and is only avocational or recreational in nature.

(b) Except as provided under AS 14.48.165, the commission may exempt the following educational programs, and educational institutions only providing programs exempt under (a) of this section and this subsection, from some or all of the provisions of this chapter:

- (1) a program operated by a state or a political subdivision of a state;
- (2) instruction sponsored by a bona fide trade, business, labor, professional, or fraternal association or organization, recognized by the commission, and conducted only for that association's or organization's membership;



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- (3) nonprofit postsecondary educational institutions offering undergraduate or graduate educational programs, from a facility in this state, that are acceptable for credit toward an associate, bachelor's, or graduate degree;
- (4) a program that is provided without a fee, other than the actual cost of materials, to students;
- (5) a program that does not offer education credentials;
- (6) a short course of study that is not more than 15 days or 120 hours in duration;
- (7) a program offered within the state by an out-of-state institution that is authorized to operate by the state in which it is located and is nationally or regionally accredited;
- (8) a program or institution that is regulated by another agency or political subdivision of the state regarding the quality of course contents, facilities, and operation.
- (c) In this section, "nonprofit" means an organization that is exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3). (sec. 1 ch 25 SLA 1976; am sec. 1 ch 50 SLA 1977; am sec. 1 ch 12 SLA 1992; am sec.2 ch 112 SLA 1997; am sec 1 ch 21 SLA 2005; am sec. 42 ch 89 SLA 2014)

Sec. 14.48.210. Definitions. In this chapter

- (6) "**educational credentials**" means degrees, diplomas, **certificates**, transcripts, reports, documents, or letters of designation, marks, appellations, series of letters, numbers, or words which signify, purport, or are generally taken to signify enrollment, attendance, progress, or satisfactory completion of the requirements or prerequisites for education at a postsecondary educational institution;
- (8) "postsecondary educational institution" means academic, vocational, technical, home study, business, professional, or other school, college, or university offering education primarily to persons who have completed or terminated their secondary education, or who are beyond the age of compulsory high school attendance, for attainment of educational, professional, or vocational objectives;



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