OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 142

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

SUMMARY

This bill gives the Office of Higher Education (OHE) executive director greater discretion to accept or reject the accreditation of private occupational schools under certain circumstances. These schools are privately controlled and offer instruction in trades or industrial, commercial, professional, or service occupations for remuneration. By law, OHE oversees the state’s authorization of these schools, including their initial authorization and subsequent renewals.

Under current law, once the executive director gives a private occupational school its initial authorization to operate, he must accept third-party accreditation of the school if it is given by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized agency unless he finds reasonable cause to reject it. The bill allows the executive director to reject accreditation from this type of agency without finding reasonable cause.

Additionally, the bill requires any initial certification application that OHE receives from a private occupational school to expire if it remains incomplete six months after submittal, thereby prohibiting OHE from approving it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/06/2018)