

SENATE BILL NO. 299
INTRODUCED BY F. THOMAS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING AN INTERNET-BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TO OFFER POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-25-107, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 20-25-107, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-25-107. Regulation of award of degrees -- penalty. (1) ~~No~~ A person, corporation, association, or institution ~~shall~~ may not issue any degree or ~~such~~ similar literary honors ~~as~~ that are usually granted by universities or colleges without the prior approval of the regents of the adequacy of the course of study.

(2) This section does not apply to:

(a) any an educational institution accredited by an educational accrediting association whose accrediting is found by the regents to be generally recognized by state and other universities in the United States; or

(b) a religious educational institution operated on a nonprofit basis that offers postsecondary courses or academic degrees online through the use of an internet connection.

(3) Violation of this section is a misdemeanor."

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