

SENATE BILL No. 136

February 1, 2005, Introduced by Senators GEORGE, KUIPERS, BASHAM, JELINEK, HARDIMAN, GARCIA, GOSCHKA, BIRKHOLZ, VAN WOERKOM, ALLEN, CHERRY, JACOBS, BRATER and TOY and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to prohibit the issuance and use of false academic credentials; to prohibit false claims concerning academic credentials; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state officials; and to prescribe civil sanctions.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "authentic credentials in education act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Academic credential" means a degree or a diploma,
5 transcript, educational or completion certificate, or similar
6 document that indicates completion of a program of study or
7 instruction, completion of 1 or more courses, or the grant of an
8 associate, bachelor, master, or doctoral degree.

1 (b) "Department" means the department of labor and economic
2 growth.

3 (c) "False academic credential" means an academic credential
4 issued or manufactured by a person that is not a qualified
5 institution.

6 (d) "Qualified institution" means any of the following:

7 (i) An institution of higher education, as that term is defined
8 in 20 USC 1001, located in the United States.

9 (ii) Any other institution of higher education determined by
10 the department to meet standards of academic quality comparable to
11 those of an institution of higher education described in
12 subparagraph (i) and designated by the department as a qualified
13 institution.

14 Sec. 3. A person shall not knowingly issue or manufacture a
15 false academic credential. If the director of the department finds
16 that a person has violated this section, the director may assess a
17 civil fine against that person of not more than \$20,000.00.

18 Sec. 4. (1) An individual shall not knowingly use a false
19 academic credential to obtain employment; to obtain a promotion or
20 higher compensation in employment; to obtain admission to a
21 qualified institution; or in connection with any loan, business,
22 trade, profession, or occupation.

23 (2) An individual who does not have an academic credential
24 shall not knowingly use or claim to have that academic credential
25 to obtain employment or a promotion or higher compensation in
26 employment; to obtain admission to a qualified institution; or in
27 connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or

1 occupation.

2 (3) If the director of the department finds that an individual
3 has violated this section, the director may assess a civil fine
4 against that individual of not more than \$1,000.00.