
INTERIM CHARGE TEN

In 2003, following the 78th Regular Legislative Session, the Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education was charged with identifying opportunities for legislative and administrative action relating to:

Deregulating seminaries and similar institutions offering exclusively religious education or training.

Background:

For consumer protection purposes, Subchapter G of Chapter 61 was added to the Texas Education Code. This was in the 1970s and the purpose was to drive degree mills out of Texas.

Moving toward a statute that would make institutions offering religious education exempt from the authority of the Coordinating Board to grant degrees could potentially result in P.O. Boxes, etc., selling degrees.

The Coordinating Board in correlation with other interested parties are currently looking for a way to solve the problem of seminaries and also provide modest consumer protection, i.e., that they are getting a real education.

Recommendations:

The Coordinating Board is jointly working with other interested parties on acceptable language for recommendations to the legislature. Therefore, the Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education has no recommendation at this time.

