ACT NO. 6979

BILL NO. 27-0125

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2007

An Act amending 17 V.I.C., by adding chapter 17A to prohibit the operation of non-accredited, private, degree granting post-secondary education institutions in the Virgin Islands

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 17 Virgin Islands Code is amended by adding chapter 17A, Private Post Secondary Education Institutes

"*Chapter 17A Private Post Secondary Institutes*

§ 201 (a) A private, degree granting post-secondary education institution may not operate in the Virgin Islands, unless it has been accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(b) Agents of any degree granting post-secondary education institution that has not been accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the United States Department of Education may not solicit resident students.

(c) Unless a private, degree granting post-secondary education institution is accredited as provided in subsection (a), no official or employee of the Virgin Islands Department of Education or the University of the Virgin Islands or any school district of the territory may:

(1) permit the institution, or proprietor or agent of the institution, to solicit business in or from any public school within the Virgin Islands; or

(2) provide any list of students or list of prospective students to the institution, or proprietor, or agent of the institution.

§ 202 (a) Any person violating this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than $1,000 or by imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both, such fine and imprisonment.

(b) Each violation of this chapter constitutes a separate offense.

(c) Any person violating this chapter may also be enjoined from the continuation of the violation by proceedings brought by the Attorney General, any school official or any aggrieved citizen, regardless of whether criminal proceedings have been instituted.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on December 6, 2007.

Witnessed our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 11th Day of December, A.D., 2007.

Usie R. Richards
President

James A. Weber III
Legislative Secretary

Bill No 27-0125 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 12th day of December A.D., 2007

John P de Jongh, Jr.
Governor