

SUPPLEMENT), title "Public Education", to follow immediately after Section 299 thereof and to be under the new sub-title "Chapter ~~30~~ 31. Fraudulent or Sub-standard Degrees", imposing certain restrictions upon degree granting institutions and upon degrees obtained at such institutions and relating generally to certain degree granting institutions and degrees beyond the secondary school level in this State.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Sections 300 to 309, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), AND 1960 SUPPLEMENT), title "Public Education", to follow immediately after Section 299 thereof and to be under the new sub-title "Chapter ~~30~~ 31. Fraudulent or Sub-standard Degrees", all to read as follows:

300. *Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of this State to prevent deception of the public resulting from the conferring and use of fraudulent or sub-standard degrees. Since degrees, diplomas and similar measures of academic achievement are constantly used by employers in judging the training of prospective employees; by public and private professional groups in determining qualifications for admission to and continuance of practice; and by the general public in assessing the extent of competence of persons engaged in a wide range of activities necessary to the general welfare, regulation by law of such evidences of academic achievement is in the public interest. To the same end, the protection of legitimate institutions and of those holding degrees from them is also in the public interest.*

301. *Definitions. As used in this sub-title:*

(1) "Degree granting institution" means a school, academy, institute, junior college, college, university, or person or entity of whatever kind which furnishes or offers to furnish instruction leading toward or prerequisite to an academic or professional degree beyond the secondary school level, and which requires that in order to obtain a degree or diploma the recipient thereof satisfactorily complete an appropriate course of class, laboratory or research study in person under a faculty whose members hold appropriate academic degrees ~~at least one academic year of which instruction must be in residence;~~ or an educational organization or entity qualifying to grant degrees under Section 304 of this sub-title.

(2) "Degree" means any designation, mark, appellation, series of letters or words, or other symbol which signifies, purports or is generally taken to signify satisfactory completion of the requirements of an academic or professional program of study beyond the secondary school level.

302. *Award of Degrees. A degree or any object in evidence thereof may be awarded only by a degree granting institution. Anything in this sub-title to the contrary notwithstanding, a degree granting institution may award honorary degrees: provided that any such degree be clearly represented to be honorary and that any diploma, certificate or other tangible object issued or purporting to be in evidence thereof be clearly and conspicuously marked in a manner which will convey to the general public that the degree is honorary.*