

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Krummel, Lim, Roblan, Buckley
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Whisnant
Prepared By:	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: States that all post-secondary students with print-disabilities should have equal and effective access to instructional materials in alternative formats. Requires publisher of instructional materials for post-secondary students, upon request from post-secondary education institution, to provide materials in electronic format to institution for use by students with print disabilities for education purposes. Provides exceptions. Authorizes State Board of Higher Education to work with publishers and others to develop specified guidelines for purposes of implementing Act. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alternative formats for post-secondary textbooks
- Time consuming process of scanning in textbooks by individual post-secondary institutions
- Level of funding for student disability services on Oregon University System campuses

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Basic assistive technologies at Oregon's public universities include screen readers for students who are blind, screen enlargers for students with low vision, speech recognition for students with mobility issues, and in-class computer-based notetaking for students with hearing impairments. Disability service offices at institutions are responsible for manually scanning and formatting textbooks for students who require alternative formats. Students testified before the Senate Education and General Government Committee that in some cases they cannot obtain textbooks in an alternative format in a timely manner and suffer in their coursework or, ultimately, have to withdraw from courses and retake them once materials are available.

The Senate Education and General Government Committee gave SB 261-A a Do Pass as Amended recommendation with a 4-0-1 vote, and it passed the Senate 28-0-2.