

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 2 - 0

Yeas: Metsger, Westlund, Walker

Nays: Kruse, Morse

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/17, 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires publisher of college textbooks to provide prospective adopters list of textbook versions and supplemental items, estimated length of time publisher intends to keep product on the market, and wholesale price of each product. Requires publisher selling textbooks bundles to public higher education institution to offer option of purchasing bundle components separately. Requires publisher selling textbooks bundles to disclose to prospective adopter price of separately purchased textbook. Applies to textbooks offered for sale on or after effective date of Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Resale value of used books and workbooks
- Availability of unbundled textbooks and supplemental materials
- Publishing wholesale price or retail price
- Inclusion of whereas clauses in original bill
- Applicability to special editions of textbooks
- Effect of bill on student costs
- Instructors' ability to find cost of textbooks

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces substantive provisions of the measure. Requires publisher selling textbooks bundles to public higher education institution to offer option of purchasing bundle components separately. Requires publisher of college textbooks to provide prospective adopters list of textbook versions and supplemental items, estimated length of time publisher intends to keep product on the market, and wholesale price of each product. Adds primary bookstores to definition of higher education institution.

BACKGROUND: There is concern, particularly among students at institutions of higher education, about the high cost of textbooks, workbooks, CD-ROMs, and other course-related materials. A recent study by the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that textbook prices have almost tripled from 1986 to 2004, in large part because of the increasing cost of developing the additional items that come with books, such as CD-ROMs and workbooks. Publishers say that they provide these supplemental materials at the request of instructors to enhance student learning. For example, one publisher reported a \$1 million investment in a CD-ROM containing three-dimensional images to assist students learning human anatomy. The GAO study found that, nationally, students at four-year schools spent, on average, \$900 for books and supplies in 2003-2004, which was more than a quarter of the average cost of tuition and fees.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.