

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Garrett
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Stembridge, Administrator and Anna Teske, Committee Staff
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/16, 6/14

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs Joint Boards of Education (Boards) to prepare report on strategies for reducing higher education textbook costs, and recommendations for implementing cost reducing strategies. Instructs Boards to analyze potential cost savings for K-12 school districts. Requires Boards solicit student, faculty, and bookstore manager participation and expand participation to publishers that provide books and other materials to bookstores at community colleges and institutions of higher education. Directs Boards report to Legislative interim committee prior to October 1, 2012. Sunsets on convening 2013 regular session. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Textbook cost and educational expenses
- Open source options and student choice
- Current bookstore practices for student affordability
- Strategies for increasing affordability, review of federal legislation, and pricing transparency
- Inclusion of book store managers in development of report
- Connection with K-12 textbook costs

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Requires Boards to expand participation to publishers that provide books and other materials to bookstores at community colleges and institutions of higher education.

**BACKGROUND:** In recent years, textbook prices have increased significantly, resulting in increased costs to students. A 2005 study from the Public Interest Research Group found that textbook prices increased at four times the rate of inflation, and revealed that students pay on average of \$900 per year on textbooks. A similar study conducted in 2007 by the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance estimated that students spend between \$700 and \$1,000 each year on textbooks. Efforts to reduce the cost of textbooks include the Federal Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, which requires publishers to “unbundle” textbooks and supplemental materials, and disclose pricing information. By reducing the cost of textbooks, and increasing access to cost-saving strategies, supporters assert that students will experience an increase in access to higher education and a reduction in in incurred debt.