

**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 by prior reference |
| <b>Vote:</b>          | 8 - 0 - 0   |
| <b>Yeas:</b>          | Greenlick, Harker, Hunt, Lindsay, Sheehan, Sprenger, Dembrow, Johnson   |
| <b>Nays:</b>          | 0   |
| <b>Exc.:</b>          | 0   |
| <b>Prepared By:</b>   | Victoria Cox, Administrator   |
| <b>Meeting Dates:</b> | 2/2, 2/7  |

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene work group and submit report on strategies for reducing higher education textbook costs. Directs work group to analyze effectiveness of current State and Federal law relative to textbook cost containment. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current prices of college textbook
- Impact on access to post-secondary education
- Multiple approaches to cost reduction
- Feasibility of including K-12 impacts

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Clarifies that HECC will convene work group to make recommendations on textbook affordability that will then be submitted to the Legislative Assembly. Directs work group to analyze effectiveness of current State and Federal law relative to textbook cost containment. Deletes reference to cost savings analysis for K-12.

**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 an 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 incurred debt.