



House Bill 2513
House Higher Education, Innovation and
Workforce Development Committee
March 11, 2015

Chair Read, Vice Chairs Whisnant and Gallegos, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

I am here today to speak to House Bill 2513. The bill would require the HECC to develop, maintain, and manage an academic book buying consortium. Running a consortium of this sort would require extensive coordination with existing university and college book-buying operations to order augment and contribute value to the bookstores rather than competing with them.

It would require that the HECC build significant new operational functions within the HECC as it currently does not have any similar duties. A list of likely duties is included below for your reference.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.

A book-buying consortium would need to:

- a) negotiate for and order brand new texts with as few as 4 to 6 weeks from request to book delivery;
- b) accommodate frequently changing faculty text selections;
- c) address concerns regarding self-determination of academic content requirements and each institution's right to determine which texts are used for their respective academic programs and courses;
- d) address issues of academic discretion that do not permit consolidation of the number of different textbooks used to instruct any given course (e.g., multiple professors teaching "Economics 101" or "English Composition 101" or "Biology 101" courses at the 24 public campuses) which may limit opportunities negotiate lower prices.