

HB 2213 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Doherty

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/27/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Hernandez, Neron, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Wallan

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each community college and public university to establish textbook affordability plan, with at least one student representative. Establishes required elements of plan.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of textbook affordability and providing reduced prices for students
- Interest in drafting amendment to respond to concerns expressed by public universities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes requirement that college and university ensure course description lists textbooks offered in succeeding academic term. Removes requirement that academic department assign course materials to courses without assigned instructor.

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act required publishers to provide faculty members with price information and copyright dates of previous textbook editions. It also required that institutions publish in registration materials information about all required texts used in class, including retail price.

House Bill 4058 (2012) required the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to report on ways to increase textbook affordability at colleges and universities. The recommendations included increasing information and motivation for faculty to account for incremental costs. It also recommended access to more robust low-cost and open educational resources.

House Bill 2213 A requires that colleges and universities establish textbook affordability plans with at least one student representative. The plan requires creating measurable goals for increasing textbook affordability by establishing a target amount of student savings, or requiring a certain number of courses offered are designated low-cost or no cost.