

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 1539

Introduced by Senator Corbett

February 24, 2012

An act to add Section 66407 to the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1539, as amended, Corbett. Postsecondary education: textbooks.

The Donahoe Higher Education Act authorizes the activities of the 4 segments of the higher education system in the state. These segments include the 3 public segments: the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Private and independent institutions of higher education constitute the other segment. Provisions of the Donahoe Higher Education Act apply to the University of California only to the extent that the regents act, by resolution, to make them applicable.

Existing law urges textbook publishers to take specified actions aimed at reducing the amounts that postsecondary education students currently pay for textbooks. Existing law requires the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and requests the Regents of the University of California, among other things, to work with the academic senates of each respective segment to encourage faculty to give consideration to the least costly practices in assigning textbooks, to encourage faculty to disclose to students how new editions of textbooks are different from

previous editions and the cost to students for textbooks selected, to review procedures for faculty to inform college and university bookstores of textbook selections, and to encourage faculty to work closely with publishers and college and university bookstores in creating bundles and packages that are economically sound and deliver cost savings to students.

Existing law expresses the intent of the Legislature to encourage private colleges and universities to work with their respective academic senates and to encourage faculty to consider practices in selecting textbooks that will result in the lowest costs to students.

This bill would require the publisher, as defined, of a textbook, or an agent or employee of the publisher, to provide prescribed data about the textbook to prospective purchasers, including a list of the products, as defined, offered for sale by the publisher germane to the prospective purchaser's subject area of interest, the wholesale or retail price of the product, the estimated length of time the publisher intends to keep the product on the market, and, for each new edition of the product, a list of the substantial content differences between the new edition and the previous edition of the textbook.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 66407 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
3 66407. (a) (1) The publisher of a textbook, or an agent or
4 employee of the publisher, shall provide a prospective purchaser
5 of the textbook with all of the following:
6 (A) A list of all the products offered for sale by the publisher
7 germane to the prospective purchaser's subject area of interest.
8 (B) For a product listed pursuant to subparagraph (A), the
9 wholesale or retail price of the product, and the estimated length
10 of time the publisher intends to keep the product on the market.
11 (C) For each new edition of a product listed pursuant to
12 paragraph (1), a list of the substantial content differences or
13 changes between the new edition and the previous edition of the
14 textbook.
15 (2) The publisher shall make the lists required by paragraph (1)
16 available to a prospective purchaser at the commencement of a

1 sales interaction, including, but not necessarily limited to, a sales
2 interaction conducted in person, by telephone, or electronically.
3 The publisher shall also post in a prominent position on its Internet
4 Web site the lists required by paragraph (1).

5 (b) As used in this section, the following terms have the
6 following meanings:

7 (1) “Product” means each version, *including, but not necessarily*
8 *limited to, a version in a digital format*, of a textbook, or set of
9 textbooks, in a particular subject area, including, but not necessarily
10 limited to, a supplemental item, whether or not the supplemental
11 item is sold separately or together with a textbook.

12 (2) “Publisher” has the same meaning as defined in subdivision
13 (b) of Section 66406.7.

14 (3) “Purchaser” means a faculty member of a public or private
15 postsecondary educational institution who selects the textbooks
16 assigned to students.

17 (4) “Textbook” has the same meaning as defined in subdivision
18 (b) of Section 66406.7.