



HB 7019 Education Access and Affordability
(CH. 2016-236, Laws of Florida)

Bill Sponsor: Representative Porter

Effective Date: July 1, 2016

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Executive Summary:

The bill modifies requirements related to higher education textbooks and instructional materials affordability and promotes public awareness on higher education costs. Specifically, the bill:

- Expands textbook affordability provisions to include instructional materials.
- Modifies the textbook and instructional materials affordability policies, procedures, and guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education to include new issues and specifies reporting requirements regarding textbooks and instructional materials.
- Establishes college affordability provisions to identify strategies and initiatives to reduce the cost of higher education, and specifies annual reporting requirements regarding college affordability.
- Establishes notification requirements to inform students and the public, clearly and specifically, about any upcoming institutional boards of trustees meeting at which a vote will be taken on proposed increases in tuition and fees.

Section 1.

Amends s. 1001.7065, F.S., Preeminent state research universities program, to:

- Include the term instructional materials as an exclusion in the costs associated with tuition for an online degree program.

Section 2.

Creates s. 1004.084, F.S., College affordability, to:

- Require the State Board of Education and Board of Governors to annually identify strategies to promote college affordability for all Floridians by evaluating, at a minimum, the impact of:
 - Tuition and fees on undergraduate, graduate, and professional students at public colleges and universities and graduate assistants employed by public universities.
 - Federal, state, and institutional financial aid policies on the actual cost of attendance for students and their families.
 - The costs of textbooks and instructional materials.
- Require the State Board of Education to submit a report on their respective college affordability initiatives to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by December 31 of each year, beginning in 2016.



Section 3.

Amends s. 1004.085, F.S., Textbook and instructional materials affordability to:

- Expand textbook affordability provisions to include instructional materials.
- Require each Florida College System (FCS) institution board of trustees to examine each semester the cost of textbooks and instructional materials by course and course section for all general education course offerings.
 - Identify any variance in the cost of textbooks and instructional materials among different sections of the same course and the percentage of textbooks and instructional materials that remain in use for more than one term. Courses with a wide variance in textbooks and instructional materials costs among sections or with frequent changes in textbooks and instructional materials must be reported to the appropriate academic department chair for review.
 - The bill specifies a July 1, 2018 deadline for repeal of these general education course provisions.
- Each FCS institution board of trustees is authorized to adopt policies in consultation with providers, including bookstores, which allow for the use of innovative pricing techniques and payment options for textbooks and instructional materials. Such policies may include:
 - Bulk pricing arrangements that enable students to purchase course materials or texts that are delivered digitally; delivered through other technologies that are, or the licenses of which are, required for use within a course; or delivered in a print format.
 - Innovative pricing techniques and payment options must include an opt-in provision for students and may be approved only if there is documented evidence that the options reduce the cost of textbooks and instructional materials for students taking a course.
- Require each FCS institution to prominently post in the institution's course registration system and on the institution's website, a hyperlink to lists of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials for at least 95 percent of the courses and course sections offered by the institution during the upcoming term.
- Change the statutory deadline for posting the textbook information from at least 30 days to at least 45 days before the first day of class for each term.
- Modify the textbook and instructional materials affordability policies, procedures, and guidelines, which must be adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE), to include new issues addressing:
 - The establishment of deadlines for an instructor or department to notify the bookstore of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials so that the bookstore may verify availability, source lower cost options when practicable, explore alternatives with faculty when academically appropriate, and maximize the availability of used textbooks and instructional materials.



- Confirmation by the course instructor or academic department offering the course, before the textbook or instructional materials adoption is finalized, of the intent to use all items ordered, particularly each individual item sold as part of a bundled package.
- Consultation with school districts to identify practices that impact the cost of the dual enrollment textbooks to school districts, including length of time that textbooks and instructional materials remain in use.
- Selection of textbooks and instructional materials through cost-benefit analyses that help students obtain the highest quality product at the lowest available price by considering specified options (e.g., purchasing digital textbooks in bulk, expanding the use of openaccess textbooks and instructional materials, providing rental options for textbook and instructional materials, and developing mechanisms to assist in buying, renting, selling, and sharing textbooks and instructional materials).
- Require the board of trustees of each Florida College System institution to report, by September 30 of each year, beginning in 2016, to the Chancellor of the Florida College System:
 - The textbook and instructional materials selection process for general education courses with a wide cost variance identified and high- enrollment courses;
 - Specific initiatives of the institution designed to reduce the costs of textbooks and instructional materials; policies implemented regarding textbook notice;
 - The number of courses and course sections that were not able to meet the textbook and instructional materials posting deadline for the previous academic year; and any additional information determined by the chancellors.
- Require by November 1 of each year, beginning in 2016, each chancellor shall provide a summary of the information provided by institutions to the State Board of Education.

Section 4.

Amends s. 1009.23, F.S. Florida College System institution student fees, to,

- Require each Florida College System institution to publicly notice and notify all enrolled students of any proposal to increase tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration at a board of trustees meeting. The notice must:
 - Include the date and time of the meeting at which the proposal will be considered.
 - Specifically outline the details of existing tuition and fees, the rationale for the proposed increase, and how the funds from the proposed increase will be used.
 - Be posted on the institution's website and issued in a press release.

Section 5.

State University student fees.

Section 6.

The act shall take effect July 1, 2016.



General Implementation Timeline:

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| July 1, 2016 | The act shall take effect. |
| September 30 | FCS Boards of Trustees shall report on the textbook and instructional material process. |
| December 31, 2016 | Submit a report on their respective college affordability initiatives to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. |
| November 1 | Each Chancellor shall provide a summary of the information provided by FCS Boards of Trustees on the textbook and instructional material process. |