
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5778

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Oemig, Swecker, and Kilmer)

READ FIRST TIME 02/25/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to disclosure of course material information for
2 higher education courses; and amending RCW 28B.10.590.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.590 and 2007 c 457 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The boards of regents of the state universities, the boards of
7 trustees of the regional universities and The Evergreen State College,
8 and the boards of trustees of each community and technical college
9 district, in collaboration with affiliated bookstores and student and
10 faculty representatives, shall adopt rules requiring that:

11 (a) Affiliated bookstores:

12 (i) Provide students the option of purchasing materials that are
13 unbundled when possible, disclose to faculty and staff the costs to
14 students of purchasing materials, and disclose publicly how new
15 editions vary from previous editions;

16 (ii) Actively promote and publicize book buy-back programs; (~~and~~)

17 (iii) Disclose retail costs for course materials on a per course
18 basis to faculty and staff and make this information publicly
19 available; and

1 (iv) Disclose information to students on required course materials
2 including but not limited to title, authors, edition, price, and
3 International Standard Book Number (ISBN) at least two weeks before the
4 start of the class for which the materials are required. The chief
5 academic officer may waive the disclosure requirement provided in this
6 subsection (1)(a)(iv), on a case-by-case basis, if students can
7 reliably expect that nearly all information regarding course materials
8 is available four weeks before the start of the class for which the
9 materials are required. The requirement provided in this subsection
10 (1)(a)(iv) does not apply if the faculty using the course materials is
11 hired two weeks or less before the start of class; and

12 (b) Faculty and staff members consider the least costly practices
13 in assigning course materials, such as adopting the least expensive
14 edition available, adopting free, open textbooks when available, and
15 working with college librarians to put together collections of free
16 online web and library resources, when educational content is
17 comparable as determined by the faculty (~~and working closely with~~
18 ~~publishers and local bookstores to create bundles and packages if they~~
19 ~~deliver cost savings to students~~)).

20 (2) As used in this section:

21 (a) "Materials" means any supplies or texts required or recommended
22 by faculty or staff for a given course.

23 (b) "Bundled" means a group of objects joined together by packaging
24 or required to be purchased as an indivisible unit.

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