

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

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**BILL:** CS/SB 530

**INTRODUCER:** Education Committee and Senator Flores

**SUBJECT:** Postsecondary Education Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability

**DATE:** March 13, 2014      **REVISED:** \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Hand	Klebacha	ED	<b>Fav/CS</b>
2.			AED	
3.			AP	

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 530 revises applies textbook requirements to “instructional materials”; expands the dates of availability and type of information pertaining to textbooks and instructional materials that is available to students; requires greater visibility of cost information associated with textbooks and instructional materials; requires minimum adoption cycles; requires new reporting requirements; and creates a task force to research options to reduce the cost of textbooks and instructional materials for all students.

**II. Present Situation:**

Current textbook affordability statutory provisions that apply to Florida College System (FCS) institutions and state universities address components such as textbook information requirements, rules and regulations, and cost information.

**Textbook Information Requirements**

FCS institutions and state universities are required to post on their websites, 30 days prior to the first day of class for each term, a list of each textbook required for each course for the term. The list must include the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) for each required textbook and specific information necessary to identify the specific textbook required for each course.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1004.085(3), F.S.

## Rules and Regulations

The State Board of Education (SBE) and the Board of Governors (BOG) of the State University System (SUS) are required to have policies, procedures, and guidelines for implementation by FCS institutions and state universities that further efforts to minimize the costs of textbooks for students attending such institutions while maintaining the quality of education and academic freedom. In accordance with these statutory requirements, the SBE adopted Rule 6A-14.092, F.A.C.,<sup>2</sup> in January 2009, and the BOG adopted Regulation 8.003 in March 2009.<sup>3</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 530 revises applies textbook requirements to “instructional materials”; expands the dates of availability and type of information pertaining to textbooks and instructional materials that is available to students; requires greater visibility of cost information associated with textbooks and instructional materials; requires minimum adoption cycles; requires new reporting requirements; and creates a task force to research options to reduce the cost of textbooks and instructional materials for all students.

#### Instructional Materials

The bill defines “instructional materials”, and applies the same provisions to instructional materials as it currently does to textbooks.<sup>4</sup>

#### Textbook Information Requirements

The bill lengthens the timeframe for FCS institutions and state universities to have certain information hyperlinked and posted prominently in the course registration system and on its website 14 days before the first day of student registration. The information remains the same, except that the following is added:

- Recommended, in addition to required, textbooks and instructional materials.
- The new and used retail price and the rental price for required and recommended textbooks and other materials for purchase at the institution’s bookstore or other bookstore, including the website or other contact information for the bookstore.

#### Rules and Regulations

The bill provides that SBE and BOG rules and regulations must:

- Require that textbooks or instructional materials for an undergraduate course remain in use for a minimum of three (3) years, unless an exception is approved by the institution’s President or designee. An exception must be based upon a determination that the new edition

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-14.092> (last visited March 7, 2014)

<sup>3</sup> See [http://www.flbog.edu/documents\\_regulations/regulations/8\\_003\\_Textbook\\_Adoption.pdf](http://www.flbog.edu/documents_regulations/regulations/8_003_Textbook_Adoption.pdf). However, in 2010, the Legislature amended these statutory requirements to add the above-noted provisions relating to open-access textbooks. Section 4, Chapter 2010-255, L.O.F. The SBE and BOG have not updated their noted rules and procedures to include these open-access textbook provisions. See <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-14.092> (last visited March 7, 2014), [http://www.flbog.edu/documents\\_regulations/regulations/8\\_003\\_Textbook\\_Adoption.pdf](http://www.flbog.edu/documents_regulations/regulations/8_003_Textbook_Adoption.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> The bill also includes the cost of instructional materials, along with the current requirement of the cost of textbooks, to the online tuition structure for the preeminent state research university institute for online learning.

differs significantly and substantially from earlier versions and that there is value to the student in changing to the new edition. The number of exemptions granted, including the rationale to approve each exception, must annually be reported to the institution's board and maintained on the institution's website.

- Require that textbooks or instructional materials for undergraduate courses in which a dual enrollment student may be enrolled, remain in use for a minimum of five (5) years.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The bill requires each FCS institution and state university to annually report to the Chancellor of the FCS or the Chancellor of the SUS:

- The cost of textbooks and other instructional materials, by course and selection.
- The adoption cycles for high-demand courses as determined by the chancellors.
- Specific initiatives of the institution which reduce the cost of textbooks and instructional materials.
- The number of courses and course selections that were not able to meet the textbook and instructional materials posting deadline.
- Additional information as determined by the chancellors.

A new annual report is added requiring that, by December 31 of each year, the chancellors compile their respective FCS institution and state university reports and submit a comprehensive report to the Governor, BOG, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Each FCS institution and state university must annually send to the SBE or BOG, as applicable, electronic copies of its current textbook and instructional materials affordability policies and procedure, which the SBE or BOG must link to on their respective website.

The bill requires the Governor to appoint a task force to research options and determine the best method to reduce the cost of print and digital textbooks and instructional materials for all students. Task force members include the Chancellors of the FCS and SUS, students who are currently enrolled in a public postsecondary institution, representatives from FCS institutions and state universities, textbook and instructional materials publishers, and bookstore owners or managers. The task force must consider several things, such as bulk purchasing of e-books, expanding the use of open-access textbooks, and rental options.

## **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. **Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Postsecondary students, or their families, may save money if the students have sufficient information and time to find the best value for their textbooks and instructional materials.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. **Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

VII. **Related Issues:**

None.

VIII. **Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1004.085, 1001.7065.

IX. **Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Education on March 11, 2014**

The committee substitute differs from SB 530 in the following ways:

- Defines “instructional materials.”
- Requires a 3 year adoption cycle for textbooks and instructional materials for undergraduate courses, unless an exception is granted by the institution’s President, and requires a minimum 5 year adoption cycle for undergraduate courses in which a dual-enrollment student may be enrolled.
- Retains the authority to adopt textbooks and instructional materials policies and procedures at the state level.
- Requires the Governor to appoint a task force for recommendations to reduce the cost of print and digital textbooks and instructional materials.

- Requires the provision of varying individual institutions textbook and instructional materials information to be provided to their respective state chancellor, with certain information posted on the Florida Virtual Campus' website.
- Requires the cost benefits of open-access textbooks and instructional materials, including comparison with the cost benefits of publishers' textbooks and instructional materials, to be included guidelines that encourage course instructors and academic departments to participate in the development, adoption and review of open-access textbooks and instructional materials.

B. Amendments:

None.