

HB 2213 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Gelser**Senate Committee On Education**

Action Date: 05/13/19
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 3-0-0-2
Yeas: 3 - Gelser, Hass, Wagner
Abs: 2 - Heard, Thomsen
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires community colleges and public universities to establish a textbook affordability plan. Requires plan to include measurable goals, how to best mitigate economic impact on bookstore revenue, process to advertise availability of courses that use low-cost or open resources, statement of support for academic freedom to select high-quality course material, and a process to inform faculty and instructors about low- or no-cost course materials. Requires at least one student to be included in plan development.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High costs of textbooks
- Impact on low-income students
- Impact of using old textbooks on learning outcomes
- Allowing institutions flexibility while still requiring long-term plans
- Academic freedom
- Open educational resources
- Lending libraries
- Need for state funding to support open resources and low-cost textbooks

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The cost of college textbooks can be a significant financial burden for students, especially low-income and first-generation students. To address this issue, many states, colleges, and universities are developing low- or no-cost teaching, learning, and research resources, often called open educational resources (OERs). In 2015, the Oregon legislature passed House Bill 2871 to encourage use of low-cost or free resources in Oregon's post-secondary institutions of education. The legislation required the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish an OER grant program to encourage the development of affordable textbooks and materials, to employ an OER Resource Specialist; to require all community colleges and public universities to prominently designate courses with low- or no-cost course textbooks and materials, and to identify OERs for 15 general education courses. It appropriated \$700,000 to implement the OER provisions. In 2017, the legislature passed House Bill 2729 that required HECC to coordinate statewide OER programs and to report on the programs during each legislative session held during an odd-numbered year. It appropriated \$1 million to carry-out the OER Program. House Bill 2213 A requires each community college and public university to establish a textbook affordability plan.