

74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee on Education & General Government

MINORITY REPORT
MEASURE: SB 365 A
CARRIER: Sen. Morse

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Signers of the Report: Sen. Kruse and Sen. Morse
Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/17, 4/26

WHAT THE MINORITY REPORT DOES: Requires publisher selling textbook bundles to higher education institution to offer option of purchasing bundle components separately. Provides textbook bundle does not include materials sold as integrated combination of two or more units, materials that cannot be sold separately due to third-party contractual agreements, custom editions, or special editions. Requires publisher to provide information upon request on price of textbook bundle components to higher education institution. Prohibits higher education institution employee from receiving consideration for adopting specific required course materials. Provides exceptions. Prohibits resale of textbooks or other materials identified as free review course materials.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Resale value of used books and workbooks
- Availability of unbundled textbooks and supplemental materials
- Publishing wholesale price or retail price
- Inclusion of whereas clauses in original bill
- Applicability to special editions of textbooks
- Effect of bill on student costs
- Instructors' ability to find cost of textbooks

EFFECT OF MINORITY AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: There is concern, particularly among students at institutions of higher education, about the high cost of textbooks, workbooks, CD-ROMs, and other course-related materials. A recent study by the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that textbook prices have almost tripled from 1986 to 2004, in large part because of the increasing cost of developing the additional items that come with books, such as CD-ROMs and workbooks. Publishers say that they provide these supplemental materials at the request of instructors to enhance student learning. For example, one publisher reported a \$1 million investment in a CD-ROM containing three-dimensional images to assist students learning human anatomy. The GAO study found that, nationally, students at four-year schools spent, on average, \$900 for books and supplies in 2003-2004, which was more than a quarter of the average cost of tuition and fees.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.