

By: Vo, et al.

H.B. No. 1096

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of notice regarding the availability of higher education textbooks through multiple retailers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9705 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9705. NOTICE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF TEXTBOOKS THROUGH MULTIPLE RETAILERS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(2) "University-affiliated bookstore" means a bookstore that:

(A) sells textbooks for courses offered by an institution of higher education, regardless of whether the bookstore is located on the campus of the institution; and

(B) is operated by or with the approval of the institution through ownership, a management agreement, a lease or rental agreement, or otherwise.

(b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall prescribe procedures by which each institution of higher education shall provide to each student enrolled at the institution written notice regarding the availability of required or recommended textbooks through university-affiliated bookstores and through retailers other than university-affiliated bookstores. The

1 procedures must require the institution to provide the notice:

2 (1) to each student of the institution during the week
3 preceding each fall and spring semester;

4 (2) to each student enrolled at the institution in a
5 semester or summer term during the first three weeks of the semester
6 or the first week of the summer term, as applicable; and

7 (3) to students or prospective students of the
8 institution attending an orientation conducted by or for the
9 institution.

10 (c) The notice shall be provided in a hard-copy or
11 electronic format in a manner that ensures that the notice is
12 reasonably likely to come to the attention of a student receiving
13 the notice. The notice must contain the following:

14 "A student of this institution is not under any obligation to
15 purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. Be
16 aware that the same textbook may also be available from an
17 independent retailer, including an online retailer."

18 (d) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to administer
19 this section.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
21 beginning with the 2009 fall semester.

22 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
23 adopt rules under Section 51.9705, Education Code, as added by this
24 Act, as soon as practicable after this Act takes effect. For that
25 purpose, the board may adopt the initial rules in the manner
26 provided by law for adoption of emergency rules.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.