

1-1 By: Kolkhorst S.B. No. 915
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 3, 2015; March 9, 2015, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 13, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 13, 2015,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 915 By: Seliger

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the establishment and administration by the Texas
1-20 Higher Education Coordinating Board of a textbook affordability
1-21 pilot program at a public institution of higher education.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
1-24 amended by adding Section 61.0667 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 61.0667. TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY PILOT PROGRAM.

1-26 (a) In this section:

1-27 (1) "College bookstore" means a bookstore that is:

1-28 (A) operated by an institution of higher
1-29 education; or

1-30 (B) in a contractual relationship or otherwise
1-31 affiliated with an institution of higher education.

1-32 (2) "Electronic textbook" means a textbook accessed
1-33 through computer software, interactive videodisc, magnetic media,
1-34 CD-ROM, computer courseware, online services, an electronic
1-35 medium, or other means of conveying information to the student or
1-36 otherwise contributing to the learning process through electronic
1-37 means, including an open-source textbook.

1-38 (3) "Eligible institution" means an institution of
1-39 higher education that has:

1-40 (A) a total undergraduate student enrollment of
1-41 more than 18,000; and

1-42 (B) a college bookstore.

1-43 (4) "Open-source textbook" means an electronic
1-44 textbook that is available for downloading from the Internet at no
1-45 charge to a student and without requiring the purchase of an unlock
1-46 code, membership, or other access or use charge, except for a charge
1-47 to order an optional printed copy of all or part of the textbook.

1-48 (b) The board shall establish and administer a pilot program
1-49 to encourage the use of affordable textbooks at institutions of
1-50 higher education. The board shall select one eligible institution
1-51 to participate in the pilot program.

1-52 (c) The board by rule shall establish the application
1-53 process and selection criteria for participation in the pilot
1-54 program. If no eligible institutions apply, the board may select
1-55 any eligible institution to participate in the pilot program.

1-56 (d) The board shall designate one academic department of the
1-57 selected eligible institution to implement the pilot program. The
1-58 designated department shall:

1-59 (1) to the greatest extent possible, use electronic or
1-60 open-source textbooks, open educational resources, public domain

2-1 material, or other free or low-cost textbooks or textbook
2-2 alternatives for each course offered through the department;

2-3 (2) notify the institution's college bookstore of each
2-4 textbook or textbook alternative that has been adopted for use in a
2-5 course offered through the department and that will be distributed
2-6 through the bookstore; and

2-7 (3) maintain records of the cost of textbooks and
2-8 textbook alternatives for each course offered through the
2-9 department for the duration of the pilot program.

2-10 (e) On receipt of notice from the designated department
2-11 under Subsection (d)(2), the selected eligible institution's
2-12 college bookstore shall notify the designated department of the
2-13 anticipated cost to a student of each textbook or textbook
2-14 alternative that has been adopted for use in a course offered
2-15 through the department and that will be distributed through the
2-16 bookstore.

2-17 (f) Not later than December 1, 2018, the board shall submit
2-18 to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
2-19 representatives, and presiding officer of each standing
2-20 legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
2-21 education a report on the success of the pilot program under this
2-22 section and any recommendations for legislative or other action.
2-23 The report must include a comparison of the average cost of
2-24 textbooks for courses offered through the department designated
2-25 under Subsection (d) to implement the pilot program and for courses
2-26 offered through departments at other institutions of higher
2-27 education that have implemented a similar textbook affordability
2-28 program.

2-29 (g) On request by the board, the eligible institution
2-30 selected to participate in the pilot program shall assist in
2-31 preparing the report required under Subsection (f).

2-32 (h) The board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
2-33 donations from any public or private source to prepare the report
2-34 and develop recommendations as required by Subsection (f).

2-35 (i) The board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement
2-36 this section.

2-37 (j) This section expires September 1, 2019.

2-38 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
2-39 shall implement the pilot program required under Section 61.0667,
2-40 Education Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2015-2016
2-41 academic year.

2-42 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-43 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-44 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-45 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-46 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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