DIGEST

SB 117 Reengrossed   2019 Regular Session   Walsworth

Proposed law provides for greater availability and use of affordable textbooks and other educational resources by requiring public postsecondary education institutions, beginning with Fall 2020, to:

(1)   Use a conspicuous symbol, logo, or other distinguishing feature to highlight each course included in its course schedule that exclusively utilizes AER or OER course materials available and ensure that these course materials comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of and the federal Copyright Act of 1976.

(2)   Clearly communicate to students how to access AER and OER course materials available.

(3)   Provide summary data as requested by the Board of Regents regarding courses that exclusively utilize AER and OER course materials that are available.

(4)   Publish the course schedule and textbook list on their website prior to opening course registration, but not later than thirty days prior to the beginning of each academic term, and provide this information to LOUIS, individual campus libraries, and other entities or programs as might be specified by the Board of Regents.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3129.9)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1.   Changes definition of "open educational resource".

2.   Changes date for postsecondary education action to Fall 2020.

3.   Makes technical corrections.

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1.   Removes requirement for the Board of Regents, through LOUIS:The Louisiana Library Network, and the state's public postsecondary education institutions to develop and implement a plan to increase the development, acquisition, availability,

and accessibility of affordable textbooks and other educational resources for postsecondary students.

2.   Removes requirement that the plan include a list of courses prioritized for support to convert course materials to affordable educational resources (AER) and open educational resources (OER); faculty grants to develop, convert, or adopt AER or OER; a digital repository to serve as a publicly accessible database for AER and OER; and strategies to promote the production, access, and use of AER and OER.