

HOUSE BILL 115

By Sparks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to costs associated with attending public
institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The office of research and education accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury shall study and report on the costs associated with attending public institutions of higher education in this state. The report must include:

(1) The average cost of attending an undergraduate program at each public institution of higher education for the 2018-2019 academic year;

(2) The average cost of attending an undergraduate program at each public institution of higher education for the 2008-2009 academic year;

(3) A detailed explanation of the reasons for a cost difference between the average cost of attendance for the 2018-2019 academic year and the average cost of attendance for the 2008-2009 academic year;

(4) The average cost of a textbook for one (1) undergraduate course at a public institution of higher education;

(5) The average amount spent by an undergraduate student for textbooks each semester and how these amounts vary from program to program and year to year;

(6) The average amount spent by an undergraduate student for textbooks required to obtain an undergraduate degree; and

(7) A detailed explanation of how costs of attendance, including the cost of textbooks, have changed over the past ten (10) years.

(b) The OREA shall file a report containing the findings and conclusions of the study, and any recommendations for lowering the costs associated with attending a public institution of higher education in this state, with the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives no later than February 1, 2020.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.