
HOUSE BILL 1701

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Van Werven, Leavitt, Sutherland, Entenman, Rude, Kraft, Gildon, and Young

1 AN ACT Relating to notifying students of courses with low-cost
2 instructional materials and open educational resources at the four-
3 year institutions of higher education; and amending RCW 28B.10.590.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.590 and 2009 c 241 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The boards of regents of the state universities, the boards
8 of trustees of the regional universities and The Evergreen State
9 College, and the boards of trustees of each community and technical
10 college district, in collaboration with affiliated bookstores and
11 student and faculty representatives, shall adopt rules requiring
12 that:

13 (a) Affiliated bookstores:

14 (i) Provide students the option of purchasing materials that are
15 unbundled when possible, disclose to faculty and staff the costs to
16 students of purchasing materials, and disclose publicly how new
17 editions vary from previous editions;

18 (ii) Actively promote and publicize book buy-back programs;

19 (iii) Disclose retail costs for course materials on a per course
20 basis to faculty and staff and make this information publicly
21 available; and

1 (iv) Disclose information to students on required course
2 materials including but not limited to title, authors, edition,
3 price, and International Standard Book Number (ISBN) at least four
4 weeks before the start of the class for which the materials are
5 required. The chief academic officer may waive the disclosure
6 requirement provided in this subsection (1)(a)(iv), on a case-by-case
7 basis, if students may reasonably expect that nearly all information
8 regarding course materials is available four weeks before the start
9 of the class for which the materials are required. The requirement
10 provided in this subsection (1)(a)(iv) does not apply if the faculty
11 member using the course materials is hired four weeks or less before
12 the start of class; and

13 (b) Faculty and staff members consider the least costly practices
14 in assigning course materials, such as adopting the least expensive
15 edition available, adopting free, open textbooks when available, and
16 working with college librarians to put together collections of free
17 online web and library resources, when educational content is
18 comparable as determined by the faculty.

19 (2) The state universities, the regional universities, and The
20 Evergreen State College shall each designate in their online course
21 descriptions used by students for registration purposes whether a
22 course uses open educational resources or low-cost required
23 instructional materials.

24 (3) As used in this section:

25 (a) "Materials" means any supplies or texts required or
26 recommended by faculty or staff for a given course.

27 (b) "Bundled" means a group of objects joined together by
28 packaging or required to be purchased as an indivisible unit.

29 (c) "Low-cost" means the entire course's required instructional
30 materials equal fifty dollars or less.

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