

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 3087

C 81 L 06

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning cost savings on course materials for students at state universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Ormsby, Sells, Kenney, Cox, Buri, Fromhold, Hasegawa, Morrell, McCoy, Upthegrove, Ericks, Darneille, Rodne, Chase, Conway, Kessler, Dunn, Green and Lantz).

House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Education
Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education

Background:

In Washington, according to the Financial Aid Association, books and supplies are budgeted at a total of \$924 for academic year 2005-06. The 2005 College Store Industry Financial Report lists the average price of a new textbook as \$52.36 and the average price of a used textbook as \$40.01. A recent study conducted by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) stated that college textbook prices nearly tripled from December 1986 to December 2004. These prices increased by 186 percent, while tuition and fees increased by 240 percent, and overall inflation was 72 percent during the same time period.

The GAO study attributes text book cost increases to several factors. The primary reason the cost of textbooks has increased in recent years is because "bundling," which is the addition of supplemental materials, such as CD-ROMs. Publishers say that they provide these supplemental materials at the request of instructors to enhance student learning. Another factor cited in the study was the frequent revision of textbooks. Publishers report that textbooks are generally revised every three to four years, compared with cycles of four to five years that were standard in the past. Publishers report that frequent revisions are driven by the needs of instructors, who require the most current material reflecting changes in the discipline as well as changes in teaching methods. If a new edition of a book has been released, a student is not likely to be able to receive money in the bookstore buy-back process.

Each of the six public baccalaureate institutions in the state is affiliated with a bookstore. At the University of Washington, the bookstore is incorporated and operated under a Board of Trustees with student and faculty representation. The bookstore at Washington State University is incorporated and contracts with Barnes & Noble College Booksellers to manage its Students Book Corporation stores. The bookstores affiliated with Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Western Washington University, and The Evergreen State College are owned by their respective institutions and operate as self-supporting auxiliary enterprises.

Summary:

The Legislature finds that the bundling of texts, workbooks, CD-ROMs, and other course-related materials is often unnecessary and that many faculty and staff select materials uninformed of the retail costs and differences between versions. The Legislature intends to give students more choices for purchasing educational materials and to encourage faculty and staff to work closely with bookstores and publishers to implement the least costly option to students without sacrificing educational content.

The Boards of Regents of the state universities and the Boards of Trustees of the regional universities and The Evergreen State College, in collaboration with affiliated bookstores and student and faculty representatives, must adopt rules requiring that affiliated bookstores: (1) provide students the option of purchasing unbundled materials when possible; (2) disclose the costs of the materials; (3) disclose how new editions vary from previous editions; and (4) actively promote and publicize book buy-back programs. Rules must also be adopted that require faculty and staff members to consider least costly practices in assigning course materials when educational content is comparable, and to work closely with publishers and local bookstores to create bundles and packages if they deliver cost savings to students.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0
Senate	48	0

Effective: June 7, 2006

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3087

Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Education
(originally sponsored by Representatives Ormsby, Sells, Kenney, Cox,
Buri, Fromhold, Hasegawa, Morrell, McCoy, Upthegrove, Ericks,
Darneille, Rodne, Chase, Conway, Kessler, Dunn, Green and Lantz)

READ FIRST TIME 2/3/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to cost savings on course materials for students at
2 state universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State
3 College; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) Often the bundling of texts, workbooks, CD-ROMs, and other
8 course related materials is unnecessary since many students do not use
9 all of the materials included and may realize cost savings if materials
10 are also offered independently one from the other; and

11 (2) Many faculty and staff select materials uninformed of the
12 retail costs and differences between versions.

13 It is the intent of the legislature to give students more choices
14 for purchasing educational materials and to encourage faculty and staff
15 to work closely with bookstores and publishers to implement the least
16 costly option without sacrificing educational content and to provide
17 maximum cost savings to students.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The boards of regents of the state universities and the boards
4 of trustees of the regional universities and The Evergreen State
5 College in collaboration with affiliated bookstores and student and
6 faculty representatives shall adopt rules requiring that:

7 (a) Affiliated bookstores:

8 (i) Provide students the option of purchasing materials that are
9 unbundled when possible, disclose to faculty and staff the costs to
10 students of purchasing materials, and disclose publicly how new
11 editions vary from previous editions;

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

13 (iii) Disclose retail costs for course materials on a per course
14 basis to faculty and staff and make this information publicly
15 available; and

16 (b) Faculty and staff members consider the least costly practices
17 in assigning course materials, such as adopting the least expensive
18 edition available when educational content is comparable as determined
19 by the faculty and working closely with publishers and local bookstores
20 to create bundles and packages if they deliver cost savings to
21 students.

22 (2) As used in this section:

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

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

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CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3087

59th Legislature
2006 Regular Session

Passed by the House February 9, 2006
Yeas 98 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2006
Yeas 48 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3087** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**