

SENATE BILL No. 315

By Senator Brownlee

2-6

9 AN ACT concerning colleges and universities; relating to textbooks and
10 course materials.

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12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. (a) As used in this section:

14 (1) "Postsecondary educational institution" or "institution" shall have
15 the meaning ascribed thereto by K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments
16 thereto.

17 (2) "Course material" means any textbooks or supplies required or
18 recommended by faculty or staff for a given course.

19 (3) "Bundled" means a group of objects joined together by packaging
20 or required to be purchased as an indivisible unit.

21 (b) The chief executive officer of each state educational institution
22 shall implement policies, procedures and guidelines that encourage ef-
23 forts to minimize the cost of course materials for students at such insti-
24 tutions while maintaining the quality of education and academic freedom.
25 The guidelines shall ensure:

26 (1) That faculty members consider the least costly practices in as-
27 signing course materials, such as adopting the least expensive edition
28 available when educational content is comparable as determined by the
29 faculty member and working closely with publishers and local bookstores
30 to create bundles and packages if they deliver cost savings to students;

31 (2) that faculty textbook adoptions are made with sufficient lead time
32 to university- or contract-managed bookstores so as to confirm availability
33 of the requested materials and, where possible, ensure maximum availa-
34 bility of used textbooks;

35 (3) that in the textbook adoption process, the intent to use all items
36 ordered, particularly each individual item sold as part of a bundled pack-
37 age, is affirmatively confirmed by the faculty member before the adoption
38 is finalized. If the faculty member does not intend to use each item in
39 the bundled package, the faculty member shall notify the bookstore, and
40 the bookstore shall order the individualized items when their procure-
41 ment is cost effective for both institutions and students and such items
42 are made available by the publisher;

43 (4) that faculty members affirmatively acknowledge the bookstore's

1 quoted retail price of textbooks selected for use in each course;
2 (5) that faculty members are encouraged to limit their use of new
3 edition textbooks when previous editions do not significantly differ in a
4 substantive way as determined by the appropriate faculty member. Fac-
5 ulty members shall disclose how new editions vary from previous editions;
6 (6) that the establishment of policies shall include provisions for the
7 availability of required textbooks to students otherwise unable to afford
8 the cost; and
9 (7) book buy-back programs are actively promoted and publicized.
10 (c) Whenever any state educational institution negotiates a contract
11 with a vendor for the provision of course materials for purchase by stu-
12 dents such contract shall include provisions which: (1) Require the vendor
13 to post its policies concerning the return of used books and the exchange
14 rate for books used the previous semester that are in good condition; and
15 (2) authorizes student organizations to hold or sponsor used course ma-
16 terial exchange programs.
17 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
18 publication in the statute book.