

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 70

(Delegate Franchot, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

University and College Textbooks - Consortium

This bill creates a textbook consortium in the University System of Maryland (USM). The purpose of the consortium is to enable USM institutions to receive volume discounts on the purchase of textbooks by students. The University System Office must coordinate the purchase of textbooks for participating institutions. The Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland must establish policies and procedures necessary to implement the bill by December 1, 2005.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: It is estimated that any costs associated with creating a textbook consortium could be handled with USM's existing budgeted resources. USM did not submit a timely response to a request for information about the bill as amended.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Background: There is no central policy or procedure in place to restrain the rising cost of college textbooks; each campus has its own procedures. The University of Maryland College Park requires assigned textbooks to be published four months in advance so students have time to look for less expensive text books. University College requires that

an instructor use at least 50% of the textbook in order to assign it for a course. Some campuses work with vendors to get partial textbooks (instead of a packaged book that includes software and other material).

The consortium established by the bill is voluntary because some institutions have privatized their campus bookstores. University of Maryland College Park, for example, has contracted with Barnes and Noble to run its bookstore.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2005
mp/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2005

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