

**HB0204/405766/1**

BY: Committee on Ways and Means

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 204

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Walker” and substitute “Walker, Bartlett, Barve, Elmore, George, Gilchrist, Howard, Jennings, Kaiser, Krebs, McKee, Murphy, and F. Turner”; in line 2, strike “Tax Credit – Student Textbooks” and substitute “Task Force to Study the Cost of Textbooks for Higher Education”; and strike in their entirety lines 3 through 14, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Cost of Textbooks for Higher Education; providing for the composition of the Task Force; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to provide staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation; providing that a member of the Task Force is entitled to reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Study the Cost of Textbooks for Higher Education.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 15 on page 1 through line 3 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Cost of Textbooks for Higher Education.

(Over)

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the Chancellor's designee;

(5) the President of Morgan State University, or the President's designee;

(6) the President of St. Mary's College of Maryland, or the President's designee;

(7) the following members, appointed by the Secretary of Higher Education:

(i) one member of a board of community college trustees;

(ii) one student who is enrolled in a constituent institution of the University System of Maryland;

(iii) one student who is enrolled in a community college;

(iv) one member of the faculty of a community college;

(v) one representative of a business that contracts with the University System of Maryland or a community college to provide textbook selling services on a university or community college campus;

(vi) one representative of a textbook publishing company whose textbooks are sold to higher education students in the State; and

(vii) one representative of a business that buys and sells used textbooks to higher education students in the State;

(8) one member of the faculty of a constituent institution of the University System of Maryland, appointed by the Chancellor; and

(9) one representative of the Maryland Independent College and University Association.

(c) The members of the Task Force shall elect a chair from the membership.

(d) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) examine retail prices of textbooks for higher education students in the State, including average and median prices for undergraduate, graduate, and community college student textbooks;

(2) study factors that impact retail prices of textbooks, including:

(i) how professors choose textbooks for their classes;

(ii) the amount retail booksellers increase retail prices above publishers' list prices;

(iii) publishers' methods of setting list prices;

(iv) publishers' methods of marketing textbooks to professors;  
and

(v) any other factors the Task Force identifies as impacting retail prices paid by higher education students for textbooks; and

(3) develop recommendations for providing financial relief to students and families relating to the price of textbooks.

(g) In performing its duties, the Task Force may invite all interested groups and individuals to present testimony or other information to the Task Force.

(h) On or before September 1, 2008, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,

2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”