



**HB0531/393722/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

18 FEB 25  
14:48:53

BY: Delegate Simmons  
(To be offered in the Appropriations Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 531  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with “establishing” in line 8 down through “requirement;” in line 9; in line 10, strike “and penalties”; and in the same line, after “noncompliance;” insert “requiring certain public institutions of higher education to report on certain compliance and improvement measures;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 14, strike “**REMOTE**” and substitute “**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR REMOTE**”; in the same line, after “**ACCOMMODATIONS**” insert “**THAT**”; in line 15, strike “**LIVESTREAMED CLASSES;**” and substitute “**LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS THAT:**”

- 1. SUPPORT SCREEN READERS AND KEYBOARD NAVIGATION;**
- 2. ALLOW FOR CLOSED CAPTIONING OF VIDEO CONTENT;**
- 3. PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TEXT FOR IMAGES; AND**
- 4. ENABLE TEXT-TO-SPEECH FUNCTIONALITY AND VICE VERSA;**

in line 16, strike “**RECORDED CLASSES;**” and substitute “**COURSE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR:**

- 1. ALL COURSE MATERIALS TO BE AVAILABLE IN A DIGITAL FORMAT;**
- 2. RECORDED LECTURES TO INCLUDE A TRANSCRIPT;**
- 3. ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENTS TO BE PROVIDED WHEN NECESSARY;**
- 4. SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION TO BE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS;**
- 5. CLEAR NAVIGATION AND CONSISTENT COURSE STRUCTURE; AND**
- 6. ACCESS TO VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS;”;**

in line 17, strike “**VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS; AND**” and substitute “**COMMUNICATION STANDARDS, INCLUDING:**

- 1. MULTIPLE METHODS OF STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION;**
- 2. CLEAR RESPONSE TIME EXPECTATIONS;**
- 3. REGULAR CHECK-INS WITH STUDENTS USING ACCOMMODATIONS; AND**

4. ACCESSIBLE VIRTUAL COLLABORATION TOOLS;  
AND”;

and in line 18, strike “**REMOTE ACCESS TO ACADEMIC RESOURCES**” and substitute  
“ASSESSMENT ACCOMMODATIONS, INCLUDING:

1. FLEXIBLE TESTING WINDOWS;
2. ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT FORMATS;
3. EXTENDED TIME IMPLEMENTATIONS;
4. CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIRTUAL PROCTORING; AND
5. MULTIPLE SUBMISSION METHODS FOR ASSIGNMENTS”.

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 1 and 2; in line 3, strike “**(II)**” and substitute “**(I)**”; in line 4, strike “**(3)**” and substitute “**(2)**”; in line 6, strike “**(III)**” and substitute “**(II)**”; in line 7, strike “**(4)**” and substitute “**(3)**”; strike in their entirety lines 8 through 11, inclusive; in line 12, strike “**(3)**” and substitute “**(2)**”; in line 15, strike “**(4)**” and substitute “**(3)**”; in line 18, strike “**(5)**” and substitute “**(4)**”; and in line 23, strike “**(4)**” and substitute “**(3)**”.

On pages 3 and 4, strike beginning with “**A**” in line 26 on page 3 down through “**SUBSECTION**” in line 22 on page 4 and substitute “**A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY UTILIZE EXISTING TECHNOLOGY THROUGH:**”

- (I) CURRENT LICENSED LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS;
- (II) EXISTING VIDEO CONFERENCE PLATFORMS;
- (III) CURRENT ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS AND SOFTWARE; AND
- (IV) CURRENT DIGITAL CONTENT CREATION TOOLS.

(2) PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ENSURE TECHNICAL STANDARDS, INCLUDING:

- (I) RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTIVITY FOR VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS;
  - (II) ADEQUATE SERVER CAPACITY FOR CONTENT DELIVERY;
  - (III) REGULAR SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND UPDATES;
  - (IV) TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY;
- AND
- (V) REGULAR ACCESSIBILITY TESTING OF SYSTEMS”.

On page 4, in line 23, strike “**EVERY 6 MONTHS**” and substitute “**EACH YEAR**”.

On page 5, in line 1, strike “**FOR A NONCOMPLIANT**” and substitute “**IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION, A**”; strike beginning with the comma in line 2 down through the period in line 3 and substitute “**THAT IS DEEMED NONCOMPLIANT SHALL:**”

**(I) DEVELOP AN IMPROVEMENT PLAN;**

**(II) RECEIVE ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; AND**

**(III) IMPLEMENT CORRECTIVE MEASURES WITHIN A TIME FRAME AGREED ON BY THE INSTITUTION AND THE COMMISSION.**

**(4) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL:**

**(I) REGULARLY ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REMOTE LEARNING SYSTEMS;**

**(II) UPDATE PRACTICES BASED ON STUDENT FEEDBACK;**

**(III) SHARE SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS; AND**

**(IV) PARTICIPATE IN BEST PRACTICES WORKSHOPS.”;**

in line 4, strike “(4)” and substitute “**(5)**”; in line 15, after “OF” insert “**BEST PRACTICES FOR**”; in line 16, strike “AND”; after line 16, insert:

**“(IV) STUDENT FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES FROM THE SURVEYS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION; AND”;**

and in line 17, strike “(IV)” and substitute “**(V)**”.