

**Author:**

Senator Nieves, Preston - Director of Finance

**Sponsor(s)**

Senator Wicker, Catherine

Senator Brittlin, Richardson

Senator Cleveland, Jacob

**A Bill -**

**To be entitled "The Textbook Lending and Affordability Act"  
establishing a Student Government led Textbook Lending Program**

**WHEREAS:** Being necessary for almost every college class, textbooks are essential materials for the academic success of students; and

**WHEREAS:** The soaring cost of textbooks has made this prohibitively expensive. On average, students at four-year public universities spend \$1298 per year on textbooks. The average cost of college textbooks has risen four times faster than the rate of inflation over the past 10 years, while purchasing power adjusted wages for all but the wealthiest people have either plateaued or declined since the 1970s; and

**WHEREAS:** As many as 2/3rds of students skip renting or buying their course materials because they cannot afford them; and

**WHEREAS:** There is overwhelming evidence that students who purchase textbooks are more likely to be successful in their courses than those who do not. Though these differences are not always immediately obvious, the long-term impacts of textbook costs lead to self-perpetuating disparities between rich and poor and the formation of increasingly rigid class hierarchies that undermine social mobility and market freedom; and

**WHEREAS:** The extreme financial burden imposed on students as a result of textbook costs has fueled an increase in piracy and copyright infringement of textbooks as students increasingly seek ways to avoid paying exorbitant prices. According to a Book Industry Study Group, as many as 34% of students may download pirated material illegally; and

**WHEREAS:** Though Texas State University already has some available resources, such as the library and open educational resources, textbook affordability remains an issue due to the limitations inherent in these; and

**WHEREAS:** Many students have a difficult time selling used textbooks at the end of the year; and

**WHEREAS:** Student government, as the representative body of the students, has an obligation to address these challenges as effectively as possible therefore;

**BE IT ENACTED:** That the Student Government Code be amended to include the following

## **Chapter 115 - THE TEXTBOOK LENDING ACT**

### **ARTICLE I - ADMINISTRATIVE**

**§1 AUTHORIZATION.** This chapter is authorized pursuant to Article III Section 10(j) of the Student Government Constitution and Title V Article II § 2 of the Student Government Code.

**§2 PURPOSE.** This bill is enacted for the purpose of providing students with a textbook lending program, whereby students will have to option to donate and check out textbooks through a service provided by student government.

### **ARTICLE II - AUTHORIZATION**

**§1 AUTHORIZATION.** The Senate hereby authorized the creation of the textbook lending program.

**§2 STRUCTURE.** The Student Body President shall oversee the implementation of this program, which shall be managed by the Director of Student Services. The Director of Student Services shall be responsible for overseeing the day to day operations of the textbook lending program, including coordination with other commissions and outside entities as necessary. The Director of Student Services shall be responsible for updating the President and other members of the student government on developments relevant to the program and shall give a report to the Student Senate on a semesterly basis concerning the progress of implementation and the performance of the program.

- (a) The Director of Finance will be responsible for overseeing any student government funds raised or expended for the purpose of enacting this legislation, as prescribed by relevant laws, rules, and regulations.
- (b) The Cabinet shall be responsible for logging inventory of textbooks donated and checked out.
- (c) Student government office space shall be used to store books that have been donated.

### **ARTICLE III - PROCEDURES AND EXECUTION**

**§1 DONATIONS.** Textbook donations shall be accepted anytime the student government is open and shall be accepted by those holding office hours during the time. A location shall be designated for storage of donated textbooks. Any textbook in usable condition that is relevant to a course offered at Texas State University shall be accepted.

**§2 CHECKING OUT TEXTBOOKS.** Students may check out textbooks at any time during the semester and shall be required to return them no later than the end of the semester. Students shall be required to present student IDs when they check out books.

**§3 ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH TEXTBOOK CHECKOUT.** If a student is unable to find an exact match to the textbook they need for their course; student government shall assist them in finding a substitute close enough to suffice for their needs. This shall include the following:

- a) Directing them towards available Open Educational Resources for classes that use them, and towards said classes for students who are enrolled in ones that do not
- b) Assisting students in finding older editions with similar or identical content, using resources such as those presented in Appendix A
- c) Directing Students towards resources provided by the library as prescribed by Section §4

**§4 USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES.** In the interest of avoiding redundancy and fully utilizing available resources, Student

Government shall work with Alkek Library in the implementation of this program

- a) Existing resources, such as textbook checkout and PDF copies of works that are available as such, shall be utilized. Students seeking low or no cost alternatives to purchasing textbooks shall be directed to Alkek Library resources, and Student Government shall assist student with questions they have about how to access these services.
  
- b) Student Government shall donate textbooks that it does not have room to store to the library, provided they are still relevant and in usable condition. The library shall choose which books to accept in accordance with its own policies and guidelines.

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** That upon passage this legislation shall be sent to the Student Body President for further action.

# Appendix I

<https://www.nonewtexts.com/>

**Buy Old Editions Of Textbooks To Find New Savings We're Here To Help**

SEARCH BY TITLE, AUTHOR, OR ISBN

### What You Can Save

 Organic Chemistry By James McMurry 10th Edition \$47.00 10th Edition \$2.00 <b>Save \$45</b>	 Calculus Early Transcendentals By James Stewart 10th Edition \$47.00 10th Edition \$2.00 <b>Save \$45</b>	 Physics By John T. Moore 10th Edition \$69.00 10th Edition \$1.00 <b>Save \$68</b>	 Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications By Kenneth Rosen 10th Edition \$29.00 10th Edition \$3.00 <b>Save \$26</b>
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### How We Can Help

- PRICE COMPARISON**  
We compare prices of thousands of titles of new and old editions of textbooks to help you decide if it's the best "buy" for your school or institution.
- CONTENT MATCHING**  
We match content between new and old editions of textbooks to help you find the best edition available for your course.

### Why It Matters

**Prices of New vs. Previous Editions of Textbooks**

Year	10th Edition	9th Edition	8th Edition	7th Edition
2013	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2014	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2015	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2016	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2017	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2018	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2019	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2020	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2021	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
2022	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	\$47.00

**How the Textbook Industry Profits off of New Editions**

10/20/2022  
We compare a list of thousands of textbooks and found that new editions cost an average over 200 percent more than the previous edition.

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