

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE BILL NO. 165

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COMMUNITY TECH SYSTEM. Provides relative to the availability and use of electronic textbooks and other instructional material in LCTCS institutions. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT
2 To enact 17:3351.16, relative to community and technical colleges; to provide relative to
3 increasing the availability and use of electronic textbooks and other instructional
4 materials; to provide relative to the purchase of electronic textbooks and other
5 instructional materials and content; to provide for rules; to provide relative to fees;
6 and to provide for related matters.
7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3351.16 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
9 **§17:3351.16. Louisiana Community and Technical College System; electronic**
10 **textbooks and instructional materials; fee**
11 **A. In an effort to reduce the cost of course materials to students and**
12 **provide a convenient means for students to purchase course materials in a single**
13 **transaction in lieu of purchasing content separately, the Board of Supervisors**
14 **of Community and Technical Colleges shall make every effort to ensure that**
15 **electronic versions are available for all prescribed textbooks and other**
16 **instructional materials and shall develop a program for the encouragement and**
17 **sale of electronic textbooks and instructional materials.**

B. Beginning in the Fall 2011 semester and thereafter, the board shall:

(1) Direct institutions under its management to clearly communicate the board's desire to increase the availability and accessibility of electronic textbooks and other instructional materials in community and technical colleges when inviting publishers to participate in the textbook selection process and encourage all publishers to provide electronic versions of the products they offer in addition to the printed version.

(2) Adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary for the sale and distribution of electronic textbook content, or fractions of electronic textbook content, instructional material and assessments.

C. The board is authorized to charge a single fee at registration for students opting to purchase electronic textbooks and other instructional materials. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the monies derived from such fees shall remain in the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and shall not be deposited into the state general fund. Such monies shall be used to lower the cost of electronic textbooks and instructional materials to students.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

Proposed law (R.S. 17:3361.16) provides for the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges board to create a program, beginning in the Fall 2011 semester and thereafter, to curb the cost of course material by encouraging the use of electronic textbooks and course material. Provides for LCTCS institutions to communicate the board's desire to encourage the accessibility and availability of electronic course material to publishers.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt rules for the sale of electronic course material or fractions of electronic course materials.

Proposed law authorizes the board to charge a single fee at registration for students opting to purchase electronic textbooks and other instructional materials. Provides, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for monies derived from such fees to remain with LCTCS and not be deposited in the state general fund. Provides that such monies are to be used to lower the cost of electronic textbooks and instructional materials to students.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3361.16)