

New law provides for the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to make every effort to ensure that electronic and digital versions are available for all prescribed textbooks and other digital instructional materials and to develop a program for the encouragement and sale of such electronic and digital course materials, in an effort to reduce the costs to students and provide a convenient means for students to purchase such course materials in a single transaction instead of purchasing content separately.

New law requires the board, beginning in the Fall 2011 semester and thereafter, to do the following:

- (1) Direct institutions under its management to clearly communicate the board's desire to increase the availability and accessibility of electronic and digital textbooks and other digital instructional materials in community and technical colleges when inviting publishers to participate in the textbook selection process and encourage all publishers to make available electronic and digital 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 and digital textbook content, or fractions of electronic and digital textbook content, instructional materials, and assessments.

New law authorizes the board to charge a student opting to purchase electronic and digital textbooks and other digital instructional materials an amount not greater than the actual cost.

New law provides that the board may not charge the student for any administrative, handling or other costs associated with providing electronic and digital textbooks and other digital instructional materials.

New law provides, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, monies derived from such charges shall remain with LCTCS and not be deposited in the state general fund.

New law further provides that such monies are to be used to lower the cost of electronic and digital textbooks and instructional materials to students.

New law provides that nothing in the new law shall be construed to affect the terms of a contract entered into by the board prior to the effective date of the new law, or construed to supersede the institutional autonomy or academic freedom of instructors, faculty members, or academic departments involved in the selection of college textbooks and other instructional materials.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3351.16)