
DIGEST

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HB 713 Original

2020 Regular Session

Edmonston

Abstract: Provides relative to review, adoption, procurement, distribution, and use of textbooks and other instructional materials in public schools.

Present law provides for the review, adoption, procurement, and distribution of textbooks and other instructional materials for use in public elementary and secondary schools. Proposed law revises the procedures established in present law for the review and adoption of such materials.

Textbook Procurement and Distribution Process

Present constitution requires the legislature to appropriate funds to supply free school books and other materials of instruction prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to the children of this state at the elementary and secondary levels (Const. Art. VIII, §13(A)).

Present law prohibits BESE from restricting the amount or percentage of state or local funds a school board may expend on textbooks. Proposed law prohibits BESE and the state Dept. of Education (DOE) from withholding any funds and prohibiting expenditures on textbooks that meet federal requirements and align with state content standards.

Present law requires BESE to prescribe a process for textbook review, adoption, procurement and distribution. Proposed law requires BESE to prescribe a process only for procurement and distribution.

State Review Process

Present law requires BESE to establish a process whereby DOE shall review textbooks. Proposed law deletes this requirement.

Present law requires DOE to review textbooks in English language arts, math, science, and social studies at least every six years and determine the degree to which each aligns with state content standards. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires DOE to provide public school governing authorities with a list of textbooks reviewed indicating the degree to which each aligns with state content standards. Requires list be posted online. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the review process for textbooks to be conducted entirely online. Proposed law deletes this requirement.

Present law specifies that present law does not prohibit a public school or school district from purchasing materials that are not included in the list prepared by DOE. Proposed law retains present law.

Role of Public School Governing Authorities

Present law requires public school governing authorities to adopt policies and regulations for the adoption and use of textbooks that sufficiently support the needs of all students in meeting state content standards.

Present law provides for the establishment of local review committees for the adoption of textbooks that DOE has not reviewed. Proposed law requires establishment of district review committees for the adoption of all textbooks and other materials in English language arts, math, science, and social studies. Proposed law requires that the review process carried out by local committees shall include

essentially the same elements as required by present law for the review by DOE. Specifically, the review process, at a minimum, shall include:

- (1) Guidelines and timelines.
- (2) Evaluation criteria and procedures.
- (3) Opportunity for public comment and opportunity for content providers to respond.
- (4) Materials must meet certain standards regarding conversion to a format for use by students with disabilities.

Purchase of Textbooks by Public School Governing Authorities; Contracts

Present law provides as follows:

- (1) Requires each contract with a publisher for textbooks to be awarded on a competitive basis.
- (2) Requires DOE to support public school governing authorities in achieving cost efficiencies by providing for bulk purchasing through state contracts and encouraging content providers to make instructional materials available through the central depository.
- (3) Authorizes public school governing authorities to purchase textbooks through a state contract or the central depository or to contract directly with a publisher or other content provider.
- (4) Requires each textbook contract to provide that upon the request of a public school governing authority, a publisher or other content provider shall allow the governing authority to purchase materials through the central depository.

Proposed law retains present law.

Textbook Depository

Present law requires DOE to provide for a central depository for textbooks aligned to state content standards and to facilitate their purchase and distribution. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:351.1)