

TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas


SG Legislation
received by: *KW*
received date: *10/16/19*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dean of Students Dr. Margarita Arellano

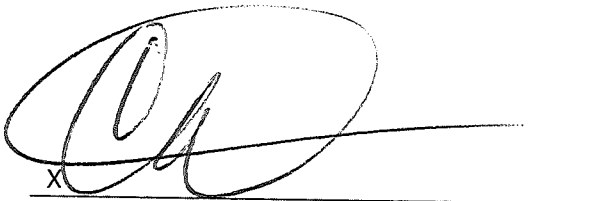
Assistant Dean of Students Kathryn Weiser

DATE: Tuesday, September 10, 2019

FROM: Corey Benbow, Student Body President 

SUBJECT: S.B. 02 The Textbook Lending and Affordability Act

I approve of this legislation passed by the Student Government Senate
which is Establishes a Student Government led Textbook Lending Program



X
Corey F. Benbow

Student Body President '19-20



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

601 UNIVERSITY DRIVE | SAN MARCOS, TEXAS 78666-4684 | phone 512.245.1274 | fax 512.245.8268 | STUDENTGOVERNMENT.DQS.TXSTATE.EDU

Texas State University was founded in 1899.

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

1 **Author:**
2 Senator Nieves, Preston - Director of Finance

3 **Sponsor(s)**
4 Senator Wicker, Catherine- Director of Student Services
5 Senator Brittlin, Richardson
6 Senator Cleveland, Jacob

7 **Date of First Reading: August 26, 2019**

8 **S.B.2019.2020.02**

9

10 **A Bill -**

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

13

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

17 **WHEREAS:** The soaring cost of textbooks has made this
18 prohibitively expensive. On average, students at four-year
19 public universities spend \$1,298 per year on textbooks. The
20 average cost of college textbooks has risen four times faster
21 than the rate of inflation over the past 10 years while
22 purchasing power adjusted wages for all but the wealthiest
23 people have either plateaued or declined since the 1970s; and

24 **WHEREAS:** As many as two-thirds of students skip renting or
25 buying their course materials because they cannot afford them;
26 and

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

34 **WHEREAS:** The extreme financial burden imposed on students as a
35 result of textbook costs has fueled an increase in piracy and
36 copyright infringement of textbooks as students increasingly
37 seek ways to avoid paying exorbitant prices. According to Book

38 Industry Study Group, as many as 34% of students may download
39 pirated material illegally; and

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

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

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

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

51

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

53 **ARTICLE I - ADMINISTRATIVE**

54 **§1 AUTHORIZATION.** This chapter is authorized pursuant to
55 Article III, Section 10(j) of the Student Government
56 Constitution.

57 **§2 PURPOSE.** This bill is enacted for the purpose of providing
58 students with a textbook lending program, whereby students will
59 have to option to donate and check out textbooks through a
60 service provided by Student Government.

61

62 **ARTICLE II - AUTHORIZATION**

63 **§1 AUTHORIZATION.** The Senate hereby authorized the creation of
64 the textbook lending program.

65 **§2 STRUCTURE.** The Student Body President shall oversee the
66 implementation of this program, which shall be managed by the
67 Director of Student Services. The Director of Student Services
68 shall be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of
69 the textbook lending program, including coordination with other
70 commissions and outside entities as necessary. The Director of
71 Student Services shall be responsible for updating the President
72 and other members of the Student Government on developments
73 relevant to the program and shall give a report to the Student

75 Senate each semester concerning the progress of implementation
76 and the performance of the program.

77 (a) The Director of Finance will be responsible for
78 overseeing any Student Government funds raised or
79 expended for the purpose of enacting this legislation,
80 as prescribed by relevant laws, rules, and
81 regulations.

82
83 (b) The Cabinet shall be responsible for logging inventory
84 of textbooks donated and checked out.

85
86 (c) Student Government Office space shall be used to store
87 books that have been donated.

88

89 **ARTICLE III - PROCEDURES AND EXECUTION**

90 **§1 DONATIONS.** Textbook donations shall be accepted anytime the
91 Student Government Office is open and shall be accepted by those
92 holding office hours during the time. A location shall be
93 designated for storage of donated textbooks. Any textbook in
94 usable condition that is relevant to a course offered at Texas
95 State University shall be accepted.

96 **§2 CHECKING OUT TEXTBOOKS.** Students may check out textbooks at
97 any time during the semester and shall be required to return
98 them no later than the end of the semester. Students shall be
99 required to present student IDs when they check out books.

100 **§3 ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH TEXTBOOK CHECKOUT.** If a student is
101 unable to find an exact match to the textbook they need for
102 their course; Student Government shall assist them in finding a
103 substitute close enough to suffice for their needs. This shall
104 include the following:

105 a) Directing them towards available Open Educational Resources
106 for classes that use them, and towards said classes for
107 students who are enrolled in ones that do not
108

109 b) Assisting students in finding older editions with similar
110 or identical content, using resources such as those
111 presented in Appendix A
112

113 c) Directing students towards resources provided by the
114 library as prescribed by Section §4

115 **§4 USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES.** In the interest of avoiding
116 redundancy and fully utilizing available resources, Student
117 Government shall work with Alkek Library in the implementation
118 of this program

119 a) Existing resources, such as textbook checkout and PDF
120 copies of works that are available as such, shall be
121 utilized. Students seeking low or no cost alternatives to
122 purchasing textbooks shall be directed to Alkek Library
123 resources, and Student Government shall assist student with
124 questions they have about how to access these services.
125

126 b) Student Government shall donate textbooks that it does not
127 have room to store to the library, provided they are still
128 relevant and in usable condition. The library shall choose
129 which books to accept in accordance with its own policies
130 and guidelines.
131

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

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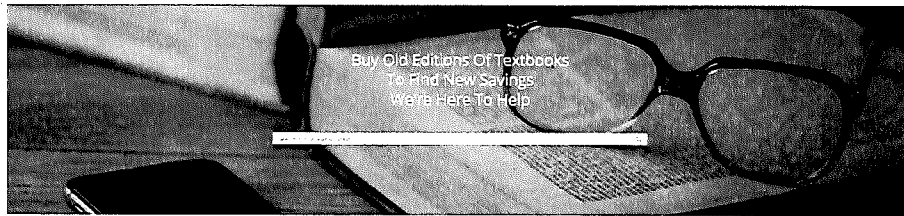
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Appendix I

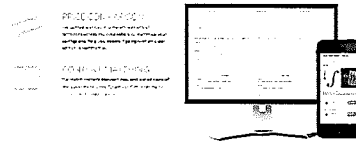
<https://www.nonewtexts.com/>



What You Can Save

Item	Original Price	Current Price	Savings
Textbook 1	\$47	\$27	\$20
Textbook 2	\$47	\$27	\$20
Textbook 3	\$69	\$49	\$20
Textbook 4	\$26	\$16	\$10

How We Can Help



Why It Matters

How the Textbook Industry Profits off of New Editions

The average student spends over \$1,000 on textbooks each year. This is a significant financial burden, especially for students with limited resources. The textbook industry's profit margins are high, often exceeding 50% for new editions. This is why buying older editions can result in significant savings.

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