

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2006 SESSION

CHAPTER 561

An Act to amend and reenact § 23-4.3:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to university textbook sales.

[H 1478]

Approved April 4, 2006

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 23-4.3:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 23-4.3:1. Policies addressing textbook sales and bookstores.

A. No employee at a Virginia public college or university shall demand or receive any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything, present or promised, as an inducement for requiring students to purchase a specific textbook required for coursework or instruction; with the exception that the employee may receive (i) sample copies, instructor's copies, or instructional material, not to be sold; and (ii) royalties or other compensation from sales of textbooks that include such instructor's own writing or work.

B. The governing boards shall implement procedures for making available to students in a central location and in a standard format on the relevant institutional website listings of textbooks required or assigned for particular courses at the institution.

The lists of those required or assigned textbooks for each particular course shall include the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) along with other relevant information.

Institutions maintaining a bookstore supported by auxiliary services or operated by a private contractor shall post the listing of such textbooks when the relevant instructor or academic department identifies the required textbooks for order and subsequent student purchase.

C. The governing boards of public institutions of higher education shall implement policies, procedures, and guidelines that encourage efforts to minimize the cost of textbooks for students at public colleges and universities while maintaining the quality of education and academic freedom. The guidelines shall ensure the following:

1. That faculty textbook adoptions are made with sufficient lead time to university- or contract-managed bookstores so as to confirm availability of the requested materials and, where possible, ensure maximum availability of used textbooks;

2. That in the textbook adoption process, the intent to use all items ordered, particularly each individual item sold as part of a bundled package, is affirmatively confirmed by the faculty member before the adoption is finalized. If the faculty member does not intend to use each item in the bundled package, he shall notify the bookstore, and the bookstore shall order the individualized items when their procurement is cost effective for both institutions and students and such items are made available by the publisher;

3. That faculty members affirmatively acknowledge the bookstore's quoted retail price of textbooks selected for use in each course;

4. That faculty members are encouraged to limit their use of new edition textbooks when previous editions do not significantly differ in a substantive way as determined by the appropriate faculty member; and

5. That the establishment of policies shall include provisions for the availability of required textbooks to students otherwise unable to afford the cost.

D. No funds provided for financial aid from university bookstore revenue shall be counted in the calculation for state appropriations for student financial aid.