

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2213
Version: As introduced

DATE: February 27, 2012

Authors: Banaian and others

Subject: Textbook disclosure, pricing, and access

Analyst: Kathy Novak

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill changes textbook notification requirements for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) by requiring earlier notice to bookstores and students, and requiring information on custom textbooks. It also establishes a MnSCU task force to study the effectiveness of existing textbook laws on affordability and to examine alternative textbook formats and delivery methods.

- 1 Bookstores; course materials.** Technical change to cross references.
- 2 Course schedule and material list.** Requires MnSCU institutions to compile course schedules with all course materials required and recommended for each course. The course schedule must include, to the extent practicable, information now required of bookstores as amended in section 3. Course schedule information must be available on the Web and in a hard copy.
- 3 Notice to purchase.** Makes notification to the campus bookstore of selected course material mandatory for MnSCU academic departments or instructors. Also requires the notice to be provided to the bookstore 45 days, instead of 30 days, before the start of the term in which the selected material will be used. Clarifies information that bookstores must provide to students and requires information on custom textbooks which are defined. Increases the time required for bookstores to notify students from 15 to 30 days before the start of the term.
- 4 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities textbook task force.** Requires the MnSCU board of trustees to establish a task force to evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws on the cost of textbooks. The task force must also evaluate alternative textbook delivery methods of textbook material, including e-books, to provide textbook cost savings. Specifies the groups that must be represented on the task force. Requires a report to the legislature with recommendations by January 15, 2013.