

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill provides appropriations to MnSCU to encourage the use of open textbooks.

“Open textbooks” are textbooks that are available online for download or printing at no (or very low) cost, and are generally licensed for free use and distribution. Postsecondary institutions and other private organizations often provide financial support to open textbook authors to help offset the potential loss of income from these books not being sold on the traditional textbook market.

This bill provides two appropriations to MnSCU in 2017:

In **section 1**, an appropriation is provided to create pilot programs on MnSCU campuses that promote the use of open textbooks. A legislative report, including detail on each program and the total savings expected for students, is due by March 15, 2017.

In **section 2**, an appropriation is provided to expand and promote an existing open textbook library to faculty across Minnesota. The open textbook library is a collaborative effort between the University of Minnesota, MnSCU, and several other postsecondary institutions nationwide to provide a central location for finding and reviewing open textbook materials.