

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 146(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/15/22

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS MYERS, Begich, Stevens, Hughes, Micciche

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to costs of and charges for textbooks and other course materials required for University of Alaska courses; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Textbook Cost Transparency Act.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 14.40.112. Course materials. (a) The University of Alaska online course schedule must provide a description of each course that clearly identifies

(1) required course materials;

(2) which of the required course materials, if any, are zero-cost resources;

(3) to the extent practicable, which of the required course materials, if any, are low-cost resources; and

1 (4) the amount of each automatic fee, if any, charged for required
2 course materials when a student registers for a course.

3 (b) A search function on the University of Alaska online course schedule must
4 provide for searches identifying courses in which all required course materials are
5 zero-cost or low-cost resources.

6 (c) In this section,

7 (1) "course materials" means books, computer software, magnetic
8 media, DVDs, CD-ROMs, computer courseware, online services, online learning
9 programs, or other media used to convey course information to a student;

10 (2) "low-cost resource" means a resource available to a student at a
11 pre-tax sales price that is not more than four times the hourly minimum wage in the
12 state established under AS 23.10.065(a);

13 (3) "online course schedule" means an online list or catalog of courses
14 or course sections used by students for course registration or scheduling;

15 (4) "zero-cost resource" means a resource available to a student free of
16 charge.

17 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.