

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To ensure that college textbooks and supplemental materials are available
and affordable.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To ensure that college textbooks and supplemental materials
are available and affordable.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “College Textbook Af-
5 fordability Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT.**

7 (a) The purpose of this Act is to ensure that every
8 student in higher education is offered better and more
9 timely access to affordable course materials by educating
10 and informing faculty, students, administrators, institu-

1 tions of higher education, bookstores, and publishers on
2 all aspects of the selection, purchase, sale, and use of the
3 course materials. It is the intent of this Act to have all
4 involved parties work together to identify ways to decrease
5 the cost of college textbooks and supplemental materials
6 for students while protecting the academic freedom of fac-
7 ulty members to provide high quality course materials for
8 students.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) COLLEGE TEXTBOOK.—The term “college
12 textbook” means a textbook, or a set of textbooks,
13 used for a course in postsecondary education at an
14 institution of higher education.

15 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
16 term “institution of higher education” has the
17 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

19 (3) PUBLISHER.—The term “publisher” means
20 a publisher of college textbooks or supplemental ma-
21 terials involved in or affecting interstate commerce.

22 (4) SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL.—The term
23 “supplemental material” means educational material
24 published or produced to accompany a college text-
25 book.

1 **SEC. 4. PUBLISHER REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) COLLEGE TEXTBOOK PRICING INFORMATION.—

3 When a publisher provides a faculty member of an institu-
4 tion of higher education with information regarding a col-
5 lege textbook or supplemental material available in the
6 subject area in which the faculty member teaches, the pub-
7 lisher shall include, with any such information and in writ-
8 ing, the following:

9 (1) The price at which the publisher would
10 make the college textbook or supplemental material
11 available to the bookstore on the campus of, or oth-
12 erwise associated with, such institution of higher
13 education.

14 (2) Any history of revisions for the college text-
15 book or supplemental material.

16 (3) Whether the college textbook or supple-
17 mental material is available in any other format, in-
18 cluding paperback and unbound, and the price at
19 which the publisher would make the college textbook
20 or supplemental material in the other format avail-
21 able to the bookstore on the campus of, or otherwise
22 associated with, such institution of higher education.

23 (b) UNBUNDLING OF SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.—

24 A publisher that sells a college textbook and any supple-
25 mental material accompanying such college textbook as a
26 single bundled item shall also sell the college textbook and

1 each supplemental material as separate and unbundled
2 items.

3 **SEC. 5. PROVISION OF ISBN COLLEGE TEXTBOOK INFOR-**
4 **MATION IN COURSE SCHEDULES.**

5 (a) INTERNET COURSE SCHEDULES.—Each institu-
6 tion of higher education that receives Federal assistance
7 and that publishes the institution’s course schedule for the
8 subsequent academic period on the Internet shall—

9 (1) include, in the course schedule, the Inter-
10 national Standard Book Number (ISBN) and the re-
11 tail price for each college textbook or supplemental
12 material required or recommended for a course listed
13 on the schedule that has been assigned such a num-
14 ber; and

15 (2) update the information required under
16 paragraph (1) as necessary.

17 (b) WRITTEN COURSE SCHEDULES.—In the case of
18 an institution of higher education that receives Federal
19 assistance and that does not publish the institution’s
20 course schedule for the subsequent academic period on the
21 Internet, the institution of higher education shall include
22 the information required under subsection (a)(1) in any
23 printed version of the institution’s course schedule and
24 shall provide students with updates to such information
25 as necessary.

1 **SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE**
2 **TEXTBOOK SELLERS.**

3 An institution of higher education that receives Fed-
4 eral assistance shall make available, as soon as is prac-
5 ticable, upon the request of any seller of college textbooks
6 (other than a publisher) that meets the requirements es-
7 tablished by the institution, the most accurate information
8 available regarding—

9 (1) the institution's course schedule for the sub-
10 sequent academic period; and

11 (2) for each course offered by the institution for
12 the subsequent academic period—

13 (A) the International Standard Book Num-
14 ber (ISBN) for each college textbook or supple-
15 mental material required or recommended for
16 such course that has been assigned such a num-
17 ber;

18 (B) the number of students enrolled in
19 such course; and

20 (C) the maximum student enrollment for
21 such course.