



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 203

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 461

Senate, March 23, 2004

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. HARTLEY of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT TEXTBOOK PURCHASING POLICIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The Commissioner of Higher
2 Education, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees for Community-
3 Technical Colleges, the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State
4 University System and the Board of Trustees for The University of
5 Connecticut, shall examine ways to maximize the combined
6 purchasing power of the constituent units of the state system of higher
7 education in order to ensure that textbooks are priced and sold at a
8 reasonable cost to students enrolled at public institutions of higher
9 education. Such examination shall include, but not be limited to, ways
10 the constituent units of the state system of higher education may (1)
11 provide faculty members with information about the cost of textbooks
12 prior to the faculty members' selection of textbooks for their courses;
13 (2) encourage stores that sell textbooks to students enrolled at public

14 institutions of higher education to sell such textbooks separately from
 15 other products recommended by the publishers; (3) utilize on-line,
 16 used or older edition textbooks without sacrificing educational
 17 content; and (4) inform students about purchasing textbooks from
 18 alternative sources at a reduced cost.

19 (b) Not later than January 1, 2005, the Commissioner of Higher
 20 Education shall submit a report on the commissioner's findings,
 21 together with any recommendations for appropriate legislation, to the
 22 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
 23 of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
 24 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 25 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2004

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Higher Ed., Dept.; Higher Education Constituent Units	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the examination of student textbook purchasing policies by the Commissioner of Higher Education and the constituent units of public higher education. Passage of the bill, which requires the submission of a report by January 1, 2005, would not result in the need for additional resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB-461

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT TEXTBOOK PURCHASING POLICIES.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0