

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3254

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

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**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ADAM J. TALIAFERRO**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires institutions of higher education to develop plan to offer open textbooks to students.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain textbooks and supplementing chapter  
2 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Open educational resource” means an educational resource that  
9 is licensed under an open license and made freely available online  
10 to the public.

11 “Open license” means a world-wide, royalty-free, non-exclusive,  
12 perpetual, irrevocable copyright license granting the public  
13 permission to access, reproduce, publicly perform, publicly display,  
14 adapt, distribute, and otherwise use the work and adaptations of the  
15 work for any purpose, conditioned only on the requirement that  
16 attribution be given to authors as designated.

17 “Open textbook” means an open educational resource or set of  
18 open educational resources that either is a textbook or can be used  
19 in place of a textbook for a postsecondary course at an institution of  
20 higher education.

21

22 2. a. Within 180 days of the effective date of P.L. ,  
23 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a public  
24 or independent institution of higher education, after consultation  
25 with faculty members at the institution, shall submit a plan to the  
26 Secretary of Higher Education to expand the use of open textbooks  
27 and commercial digital learning materials in order to achieve  
28 savings for students enrolled in the institution.

29 b. The secretary shall review the plan submitted by an  
30 institution to ensure that the plan has the potential to:

31 (1) achieve the highest level of savings for students through the  
32 sustainable expanded use of open textbooks for courses offered by  
33 the institution;

34 (2) produce the highest quality open textbooks;

35 (3) ensure that the full and complete digital content of each open  
36 textbook is made available to students:

37 (a) on the institution’s college bookstore website in an easily  
38 accessible location; and

39 (b) in a machine readable, digital format that a student can  
40 download; and

41 (4) ensure that open textbooks are available to students by July  
42 1, 2020.

43

44 3. The Secretary of Higher Education shall submit a report by  
45 June 30 of each academic year to the Governor, and to the  
46 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),  
47 that details the open textbook models being offered at each public  
48 and independent institution of higher education and the impact of

1 the open textbook programs on reducing student costs. The  
2 secretary shall post the report in a prominent location on the  
3 website of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education so that  
4 the information on successful open textbook models is accessible  
5 for replication by other institutions of higher education.

6

7 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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10 STATEMENT

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12 This bill provides that within 180 days of the bill's effective  
13 date, each public and independent institution of higher education,  
14 after consultation with faculty members, must submit a plan to the  
15 Secretary of Higher Education to expand the use of open textbooks  
16 in order to achieve savings for students enrolled in the institution.  
17 An open textbook is an educational resource that is licensed under  
18 an open license and made freely available online to the public.

19 Under the bill, the secretary will review the plan to ensure that  
20 the plan has the potential to: 1) achieve the highest level of savings  
21 for students through the expanded use of open textbooks in courses  
22 offered by the institution; 2) produce the highest quality open  
23 textbooks; 3) ensure that the full and complete digital content of  
24 each open textbook is made available to students enrolled in the  
25 institution; and 4) ensure that open textbooks are available to  
26 students by July 1, 2020.

27 The bill directs the secretary to submit an annual report to the  
28 Governor and the Legislature that details the open textbook models  
29 being offered by each public and independent institution and the  
30 impact of the open textbook programs on reducing student costs.