



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 73-05

Texas A&M University
The Student Senate
73rd Session

Open Educational Resources Bill

"A bill aiming to decrease the cost of textbooks"

PASSED

Action Taken:

Certified By:

Zachary McCue
Zachary McCue
Speaker of the Senate

Date Passed: November 11, 2020

Duly

Approved:

Eric Mendoza
Eric Mendoza
Student Body President

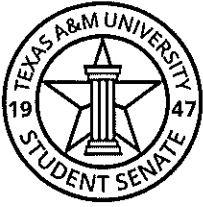
Introduced By: Cedrick Mattli, Vice President, Legislative Relations Commission
Ellie Conrad, Vice President, Academic Affairs Commission
Josh Feldman, Legislative Relations Chair, Off Campus Caucus
Sydney Ramon, Legislative Relations Commission

Sponsored By: Brogan Gunia, Off Campus Caucus
Aaron Wood,
Ximena Reynoso,
Joseph Rodgers,
Dylan Flores,

Whereas(1): Textbooks purchased by full-time or part-time students enrolled at an institution of higher education including, but not limited, to private and public colleges and universities, online universities, junior-colleges, as defined by Section 60.003 of the Education Code and located within the state of Texas can be a painful financial burden on said students¹; and,

Whereas(2): Purchasing or renting new or used textbooks which are required or recommended as instructional materials all constitute an additional cost for many working tertiary students; and,

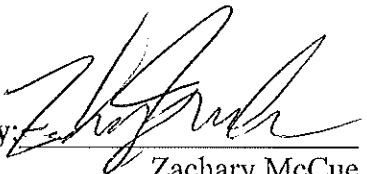
¹ U.S. News Study on the Financial Burden of Textbooks on Students: tx.ag/TAMUOER



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Whereas(3): Open Source Textbooks provide professors an alternative, inexpensive, and customizable textbook option that maintains the integrity of a hard copy textbook; and,

Whereas(4): The Texas Legislature has made great strides in prior sessions, passing: HB 3652 (2019), HB 3650 (2019), and SB 810 (2017) to support OER programs; and,

Whereas (5): On September 1, 2020, The State of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board opened a repository for Open Education Resources; and,

Whereas(6): Texas A&M has been deeply committed to Open Source Textbook programs within Mathematics, Biology, Economics, and Political Science offering textbooks completely online and free of charge to students; and,

Whereas (7): The State of Texas and Texas A&M University have a vested interest in alleviating such financial burdens² and effective disincentives from higher education for Texas Aggies and all Texans in general, especially when such burdens and disincentives are levied by the state itself

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): The Texas A&M Student Senate advocates that the State of Texas invest greater resources into the continuation and expansion of the Open Education Resources repository, as well as continued incentives towards Open Source Textbook programs; and,

Let it be

Further

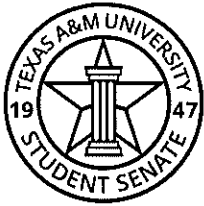
Enacted(2): The legislative ideals within this document be regarded as the will of the Texas A&M Student Body as well as the Texas A&M Student Government Association; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(3): The the Legislative Relations Commission of the Texas A&M Student Government Association is tasked and given authority in advocating for this bill and the ideals

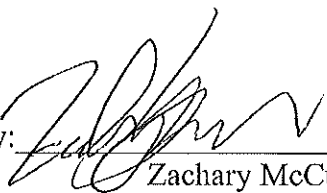
² Texas A&M Today's story on Texas A&M's Plans to Implement Open Resource Textbooks: tx.ag/OERTAMU



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outlined within it on behalf of the Texas A&M Student Body; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(4):

That a copy of this bill be sent to:

John Sharp '72, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System

Michael Young, President of the Texas A&M University

Michael G. O'Quinn, Vice President for Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Daniel J. Pugh Sr., Vice President of Student Affairs

Michael J. Hardy, Assistant Vice President for Government Relations

Dr. Bruce Herbert, Director of Scholarly Communication at Texas A&M Libraries

Dean David Carlson, Texas A&M University Libraries

Cedrick Mattli, Vice President, Legislative Relations Commission

Joshua Eric Feldman, Legislative Relations Chair

The Battalion