

1 H.454

2 Introduced by Representatives Ram of Burlington, Buxton of Tunbridge,  
3 Donovan of Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, McCarthy of  
4 St. Albans City, Pearson of Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham,  
5 and Young of Glover

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Education; postsecondary education; textbooks

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
10 Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont to assist faculty to  
11 make textbook-related decisions that minimize the fiscal impact on students. It  
12 also requires faculty of those institutions to provide more information to  
13 students regarding required course materials.

14 An act relating to minimizing the fiscal impact of textbook purchases at  
15 public postsecondary institutions

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2551 is added to read:

18 § 2551. TEXTBOOKS

19 (a) The Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont, jointly or  
20 individually, shall develop, publish, and update materials designed to educate

1 and assist faculty to make textbook-related decisions that minimize the fiscal  
2 impact on students by encouraging use of pre-owned and previous editions of  
3 textbooks and supplemental materials. The materials shall include best  
4 practices processes for consideration of:

5 (1) the difference in content between current and previous editions of a  
6 textbook and supplemental materials;

7 (2) the difference in price between current and previous editions;

8 (3) the availability of new and pre-owned copies of current editions and  
9 of new and pre-owned copies of previous editions;

10 (4) ways in which faculty and campus bookstores can work together to  
11 find alternatives to high cost editions; and

12 (5) whether the differences in content or availability justify use of a high  
13 cost edition.

14 (b) When announcing course requirements, a faculty member of the  
15 Vermont State Colleges or the University of Vermont shall inform students:

16 (1) whether a previous edition of a textbook or supplemental materials  
17 will suffice;

18 (2) whether supplemental material is a required or suggested part of the  
19 syllabus; and

20 (3) of resources on and off campus for obtaining the identified textbooks  
21 and supplemental materials.

1       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE; IMPLEMENTATION

2           This act shall take effect on passage and shall be implemented beginning in  
3       the fall 2013 semester.