The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

SB 117 Original

2019 Regular Session

Walsworth

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for greater availability and use of affordable textbooks and other educational resources as follows:

- (1) Requires the Board of Regents, through LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network, in collaboration with the state's public postsecondary education institutions to develop and implement a plan to increase the development, acquisition, availability, and accessibility of affordable textbooks and other educational resources for postsecondary students.
- (2) Requires that the plan include a list of courses prioritized for support to convert course materials to affordable educational resources (AER) and open educational resources (OER); faculty grants to develop, convert, or adopt AER or OER; a digital repository to serve as a publicly accessible database for AER and OER; and strategies to promote the production, access, and use of AER and OER.
- (3) Requires the postsecondary education management boards and institutions to cooperate with the Board of Regents in implementing the plan and timely provide information, data, and assistance requested by the board.
- (4) Requires public postsecondary education institutions, beginning with the 2020 academic year, to:
 - (a) Use a conspicuous symbol, logo, or other distinguishing feature to highlight each course included in its course schedule that exclusively utilizes AER or OER course materials available at low cost or no cost and ensure that these course materials comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of and the federal Copyright Act of 1976.
 - (b) Clearly communicate to students how to access AER and OER course materials available at no cost or low cost.
 - (c) Provide summary data as requested by the commissioner of higher education regarding courses that exclusively utilize AER and OER course materials that are available at no cost or low cost.
 - (d) Publish the course schedule and textbook list on their website prior to opening course registration, but not later than thirty days prior to the beginning of each academic term, and provide this information to LOUIS, individual campus libraries, and other entities or programs as might be specified by the commissioner of higher education.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3129.9)