

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 644 (Substitute for House Bill No. 381 by Representative LaFleur)

BY REPRESENTATIVES LAFLEUR, BRASS, GEYMANN, JEFFERSON, AND PHELPS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS: Creates Affordable Digital Textbook and Learning Materials Pilot Programs

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3129.8 and to repeal R.S. 17:3129.8, relative to open educational resources  
3 for public postsecondary education students; to provide for pilot programs; to require  
4 the Board of Regents and the management boards to collaborate relative to the  
5 programs; to require the Board of Regents to report to the legislature; to provide for  
6 effectiveness; to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3129.8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §3129.8. Affordable Digital Textbook and Learning Materials Pilot Programs

10 A. The Board of Regents, referred to in this Section as the "board", in  
11 collaboration with the public postsecondary education management boards, shall  
12 develop and implement pilot programs to provide open and no-cost digital textbooks,  
13 study tools, online homework, and open educational resources that can be used to  
14 improve student outcomes. The pilot programs for which funds will be awarded  
15 shall be selected by the board in accordance with the criteria set forth in this Section.

16 B. The board shall:

17 (1) Issue a request for applications from public postsecondary education  
18 management boards for proposals for pilot programs.

19 (2) Prioritize pilot programs that provide the most benefit to socially and  
20 economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented students. This may

1 be determined by identifying courses with a high percentage of enrollment of groups  
2 of such students and the potential for large-scale adoption of open educational  
3 resources in the courses.

4 (3) Award funds for pilot programs to replace existing commercial textbooks  
5 available to students only through purchase with open educational resources as  
6 defined in R.S. 17:3129.9. The open educational resources used in pilot programs  
7 shall be made available to students at no cost with unlimited access not later than the  
8 first day of classes of the first semester in which the program is being implemented.  
9 Priority shall be placed on using open educational resources that carry an open  
10 license that allow faculty to customize course materials to improve student learning  
11 outcomes.

12 (4) Enter into contracts with management boards administering pilot  
13 programs. At a minimum, the contracts shall require the following:

14 (a) Revised and newly created course materials including ancillary materials  
15 and related learning materials.

16 (b) Instructional materials be made available in the statewide digital platform  
17 of open educational resources maintained by LOUIS: The Louisiana Library  
18 Network in order to ensure materials are discoverable and widely available.  
19 Materials shall be made available under a license consistent with the availability of  
20 open educational resource materials.

21 C.(1) In submitting proposals pursuant to Subsection B of this Section,  
22 management boards interested in participating shall:

23 (a) Demonstrate the anticipated number of students who would benefit from  
24 the program; the courses in which the awarded funds will be used, the textbooks  
25 currently being used in the courses, and the proposed use of open educational  
26 resources in the courses; and the estimated average amount of savings per student.

27 (b) Either propose customizing course instruction to currently available open  
28 educational resources or developing new course instruction using open educational  
29 resources.

1                   (c) Identify the faculty who would customize course instruction to existing  
2                   open educational resources or develop new course instruction using open educational  
3                   resources.

4                   (2) In awarding funding, the board shall give priority to proposals that  
5                   include the following:

6                   (a) Targeted learning modules to provide additional student supports to  
7                   combat ongoing learning loss.

8                   (b) Resources to help students develop necessary employability skills  
9                   including but not limited to digital skills, financial literacy, time management,  
10                  communication, and goal setting.

11                  Section 2. R.S. 17:3129.8 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

12                  Section 3. (A) Section 1 of this Act shall be implemented beginning with the 2024  
13 fall semester.

14                  (B) This Section and Sections 1 and 4 of this Act shall be effective on August 1,  
15 2023.

16                  (C) Section 2 of this Act shall be effective on September 2, 2026.

17                  Section 4. Not later than September 1, 2026, the Board of Regents shall provide a  
18 written report to the governor, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, and the chairman of the legislative committees on education and commerce  
20 on the program.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 644 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

LaFleur

**Abstract:** Creates pilot programs to be administered by the Bd. of Regents and certain public postsecondary education management boards to provide more affordable textbooks and instructional materials to students.

**Bd. of Regents**

Proposed law requires the Bd. of Regents, in collaboration with the public postsecondary education management boards, to create and implement Affordable Digital Textbook and Learning Materials Pilot Programs.

Proposed law requires the Bd. of Regents to do the following:

- (1) Issue a request for applications from all public postsecondary education management boards for proposals for pilot programs.
- (2) Prioritize proposed pilot programs that provide the most benefit to socially and economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented student populations.
- (3) Award participating boards funds to replace existing commercial textbooks with open educational resources.
- (4) Enter into contracts with management boards administering pilot programs.

**Public postsecondary education management boards**

Proposed law requires interested public postsecondary education management boards to submit proposals that:

- (1) Demonstrate the anticipated number of students who would benefit from a pilot program, the courses for which funds would be used, the textbooks currently being used in the courses and what open educational resources would be used in the courses through a pilot program, and the estimated average amount of savings per student.
- (2) Propose either customizing course instruction to current open educational resources or creating new courses.
- (3) Identify the faculty who would do such customization of instruction or creation of new courses.

(Adds R.S. 17:3129.8; Repeals R.S. 17:3129.8)