

Senate Bill No. 48

CHAPTER 161

An act to add Section 66410 to the Education Code, relating to college textbooks.

[Approved by Governor October 11, 2009. Filed with
Secretary of State October 11, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 48, Alquist. College textbooks: electronic versions.

Existing law establishes the various segments of the public higher education system in the state. These segments include the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Existing law requires publishers of instructional material for use at public institutions of postsecondary education to make instructional material available in electronic form in a format that is compatible with commonly used braille translation and speech synthesis software upon the written request of a campus of a university or college when required for the use of students who are disabled.

This bill would require that publishers of textbooks offered for sale at a public or a private postsecondary institution of education make the textbooks available, in whole or in part, to the extent practicable, in an electronic format by January 1, 2020. The bill would require that electronic versions of textbooks include the same content as the printed versions and would allow the electronic versions to be copy-protected.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 66410 is added to the Education Code, to read:

66410. (a) No later than January 1, 2020, any individual, firm, partnership, or corporation that publishes textbooks offered for sale at the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, or a private postsecondary educational institution in the state shall, to the extent practicable, make the textbooks available, in whole or in part, for sale in an electronic format. The electronic version of any textbook shall contain the same content as the printed version and may be copy-protected.

(b) For purposes of this section, “textbook” has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 66406.7.

(c) This section does not authorize any use of instructional materials that would constitute an infringement of copyright under the Copyright Revision Act of 1976, as amended (17 U.S.C. Sec. 101 et seq.).