

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 WHEREAS, Postsecondary education is increasingly necessary
3 for success in the modern workforce; and

4 WHEREAS, The affordability of college is an ongoing
5 concern for students, families, and State policymakers; and

6 WHEREAS, The equitable first-day-of-class access to
7 effective textbooks and other learning materials plays a
8 critical role in a student's postsecondary educational
9 experience; and

10 WHEREAS, Institutions of higher learning within and
11 outside of this State are utilizing online educational
12 software to enhance and personalize a student's learning
13 experience while driving down the costs of attending college;
14 therefore,

15 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
16 **represented in the General Assembly:**

17 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
18 College Course Materials Affordability and Equitable Access
19 Collaborative Study Act.

1 Section 5. College Course Materials Affordability and
2 Equitable Access Task Force; membership.

3 (a) The College Course Materials Affordability and
4 Equitable Access Task Force is created within the Illinois
5 Student Assistance Commission.

6 (b) The Task Force shall consist of all of the following
7 members:

8 (1) One member of the General Assembly appointed by
9 the President of the Senate.

10 (2) One member of the General Assembly appointed by
11 the Minority Leader of the Senate.

12 (3) One member of the General Assembly appointed by
13 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

14 (4) One member of the General Assembly appointed by
15 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

16 (5) One member of the public appointed by the
17 President of the Senate.

18 (6) One member of the public appointed by the Minority
19 Leader of the Senate.

20 (7) One member of the public appointed by the Speaker
21 of the House of Representatives.

22 (8) One member of the public appointed by the Minority
23 Leader of the House of Representatives.

24 (9) One member representing an institution of higher
25 learning appointed by the President of the Senate.

26 (10) One member representing an institution of higher

1 learning appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

2 (11) One member representing an institution of higher
3 learning appointed by the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives.

5 (12) One member representing an institution of higher
6 learning appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
7 Representatives.

8 (13) The following members appointed by the Governor:

9 (A) One member representing the Board of Higher
10 Education.

11 (B) One member representing the Illinois Community
12 College Board.

13 (C) One member representing the Illinois Student
14 Assistance Commission.

15 (D) One member representing the Faculty Advisory
16 Council of the Board of Higher Education.

17 (E) One member representing the Student Advisory
18 Council of the Board of Higher Education.

19 (F) One member who is a librarian or online
20 education specialist.

21 (G) One member representing a national association
22 representing the higher education textbook publishing
23 industry.

24 (H) One member representing a statewide
25 professional organization that advocates on behalf of
26 public university employees.

1 (I) One member representing a statewide
2 professional organization that advocates on behalf of
3 public community college employees.

4 (J) One member representing a national association
5 representing higher education book stores in this
6 State.

7 (K) One member representing a higher education
8 digital content platform provider with offices located
9 within this State.

10 (b) Appointments to the Task Force shall be made within 90
11 days after the effective date of this Act.

12 (c) The Task Force shall meet initially at the call of the
13 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, shall elect a
14 chairperson from among the appointed members at the Task
15 Force's initial meeting, and shall thereafter meet at the call
16 of the chairperson.

17 (d) The chairperson and other members of the Task Force
18 shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for
19 their reasonable and necessary expenses from funds
20 appropriated to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for
21 that purpose, including travel, subject to the rules of the
22 appropriate travel control board.

23 Section 10. Illinois Student Assistance Commission
24 assistance.

25 (a) The Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall

1 provide administrative support, staff support, and other
2 resources necessary for the College Course Materials
3 Affordability and Equitable Access Task Force to fulfill the
4 Task Force's obligations under this Act.

5 (b) The Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall
6 designate a staff member to serve as a point of contact between
7 the Task Force and the public and to serve as a technology and
8 policy advisor to assist the Task Force. The Commission shall
9 provide a public website or web page for the Task Force to
10 publish digital meeting notices, minutes, commentary, draft
11 reports, reports, and other relevant documents and information
12 online.

13 Section 15. Meetings.

14 (a) Meetings of the College Course Materials Affordability
15 and Equitable Access Task Force are subject to the Open
16 Meetings Act. The Task Force shall make available to the
17 public online meeting notices at least 10 days in advance of
18 any Task Force meeting and shall publish meeting minutes that
19 are available to the public within 14 days after the meeting to
20 allow for structured written and verbal commentary by the
21 public throughout the process.

22 (b) The Task Force shall establish and maintain a contact
23 list of all members of the public who seek to be apprised of
24 the work of the Task Force to allow for electronic
25 notification, by email or by any other mutually agreed-upon

1 method, of Task Force meetings, agendas, minutes, draft
2 reports, reports, and other communications regarding the work
3 of the Task Force.

4 (c) The Task Force may conduct its work remotely via
5 telephone and online video broadcasting, including through
6 audio and video conferencing applications. The Task Force
7 shall allow for public observation and structured
8 participation via telephone and online video broadcasting for
9 all meetings conducted by the Task Force.

10 Section 20. Duties.

11 (a) The duties of the College Course Materials
12 Affordability and Equitable Access Task Force are to:

13 (1) conduct a collaborative college course materials
14 affordability and equitable access study;

15 (2) examine the cost-saving methods and practices
16 utilized by public and private institutions of higher
17 learning in this State and throughout the United States
18 for improving students' equitable first-day-of-class
19 access to required course materials and conduct an
20 affordability comparison of providing students' course
21 materials, including digital learning tools; and

22 (3) submit a report of its findings to the Governor,
23 the General Assembly, and the Illinois Student Assistance
24 Commission.

25 (b) The report required to be submitted under subsection

1 (a) shall include all of the following items:

2 (1) A list of cost-saving methods available to
3 students, including, but not limited to:

4 (A) inclusive access programs;

5 (B) textbook subscription programs;

6 (C) textbook rental programs;

7 (D) used textbooks; and

8 (E) other institutional textbook cost-saving
9 methods, such as open educational resources.

10 (2) The total amount of cost savings achieved by
11 public and private institutions of higher learning and the
12 total number of students that utilize each cost-saving
13 method.

14 (3) The equitable access achieved for students by
15 providing all students with access to course materials on
16 the first day of class.

17 (4) The potential impact on academic freedom of
18 faculty to be able to choose the most appropriate
19 materials for their courses for each of the various
20 methods of providing course materials.

21 (5) A description of the process required to implement
22 each cost-saving method listed in paragraph (1) of this
23 subsection (b).

24 (6) A description of the process by which students
25 obtain required course materials.

26 (7) The current, future, and potential costs of the

1 development and maintenance necessary for the utilization
2 of any course material that is provided to students at no
3 charge.

4 (8) The identification of best practices resulting
5 from the cost-saving methods listed in paragraph (1) of
6 this subsection (b).

7 (9) An examination of the following areas in relation
8 to improving equity in higher education to determine
9 whether the methods:

10 (A) improved equitable access to required course
11 materials by the first day of class;

12 (B) increased the affordability of required course
13 materials; and

14 (C) improved access to learning materials and
15 improved student outcomes for minority, low-income,
16 and first-generation students.

17 (10) A description of the ways students and faculty
18 are utilizing or have utilized inclusive access programs,
19 subscription programs, textbook rental programs, used
20 textbooks, and open educational resources for the purposes
21 of remote learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
22 health crisis.

23 Section 25. Collaboration. As part of the College Course
24 Materials Affordability and Equitable Access Task Force's
25 information gathering process to prepare its report under

1 Section 20, the Task Force shall engage and consult with
2 higher education administrators, faculty, campus bookstores,
3 publishers, librarians, and other online education specialists
4 for their perspectives on the topics covered by this Act. The
5 Task Force may also seek advice and input from such other
6 persons and entities as the Task Force finds helpful to its
7 work as outlined in this Act.

8 Section 30. Reporting; dissolution.

9 (a) No later than October 1, 2022, the Task Force shall
10 submit an initial collaborative report of its findings to the
11 Governor, the General Assembly, and the Illinois Student
12 Assistance Commission. The Illinois Student Assistance
13 Commission shall publish the initial collaborative report of
14 the Task Force's findings on the Commission's website. Members
15 of the public and other interested parties shall have until
16 February 1, 2023 to submit written comments with regard to the
17 initial collaborative report. The Commission shall publish
18 comments submitted by members of the public or other
19 interested parties on its website.

20 (b) No later than March 31, 2023, the Task Force shall
21 submit a final collaborative report of its findings to the
22 Governor, the General Assembly, and the Illinois Student
23 Assistance Commission. The Illinois Student Assistance
24 Commission shall publish the final collaborative report of the
25 Task Force's findings on the Commission's website.

1 (c) The Task Force is dissolved on March 31, 2024.

2 Section 90. Repeal. This Act is repealed on March 31,
3 2025.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
5 becoming law.