

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1355 Session of  
1999

INTRODUCED BY REINARD, KENNEY, TULLI, SEYFERT, SAYLOR, BELFANTI,  
E. Z. TAYLOR, CORRIGAN, GANNON, WILT, M. COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD  
AND BROWNE, APRIL 20, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 20, 1999

AN ACT

1 Requiring the posting on the Internet of instructional materials  
2 required for use in courses of study by designated  
3 institutions of higher education.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Instructional  
8 Materials Information Access Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Community college." A public college or technical institute  
14 which is established and operated under Article XIX-A of the act  
15 of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School  
16 Code of 1949, or the former provisions of the act of August 24,  
17 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known as the Community College Act of  
18 1963.

1 "Institution of higher education." A State-owned  
2 institution, a State-related institution or a community college.

3 "Instructional materials." All textbooks, publications or  
4 other academic materials required for use in a course of study  
5 offered by a State-owned or State-related institution or a  
6 community college.

7 "Internet." A worldwide network of computers, electronically  
8 linked around the world by a common protocol, used to facilitate  
9 data transmission and exchange and communications.

10 "State-owned institution." An institution which is part of  
11 the State System of Higher Education under Article XX-A of the  
12 act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public  
13 School Code of 1949, and all branches and campuses of a State-  
14 owned institution.

15 "State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State  
16 University including the Pennsylvania College of Technology, the  
17 University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and Lincoln  
18 University and their branch campuses.

19 "URL." The Universal Resource Locator which is the address  
20 for resources located on the Internet.

21 "Web site." A location on the Internet which is owned and  
22 managed by an individual, company or organization and which  
23 allows users to retrieve documents and other information. It is  
24 generally entered through a home page.

25 Section 3. Purpose of act.

26 The purpose of this act is to assure that parents, students  
27 and other interested parties have timely access via the Internet  
28 to information regarding required instructional materials that  
29 may be utilized in courses of study offered by institutions of  
30 higher education.

1 Section 4. Implementation.

2 (a) Required posting of information.--No later than one week  
3 after the required date established by a community college,  
4 State-owned or State-related institution for the furnishing of  
5 information by faculty members regarding all required  
6 instructional materials for use in their classes during the  
7 upcoming semester, each bookstore owned or officially authorized  
8 by the colleges or institutions shall post such information on  
9 the Internet for access by students, parents and other  
10 interested members of the public.

11 (b) Posting sites.--The required information may be posted  
12 on a web site established by the college or institution or on a  
13 web site established by the official bookstore for the purposes  
14 of conforming with this act.

15 (c) Student information.--All students enrolled at the  
16 college or institution are to be informed of the URL for the  
17 appropriate web site as part of any preregistration materials  
18 furnished. The URL is also to be made publicly available on any  
19 publications of the college or university.

20 Section 5. Applicability.

21 The provisions of this act shall apply to all community  
22 colleges, State-owned and State-related institutions of higher  
23 education located within this Commonwealth.

24 Section 6. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 60 days.