
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 712 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, NESBIT, SNYDER, DeLUCA, D. COSTA,
READSHAW, SIMS, TOPPER, MURT, NEILSON, DUNBAR, V. BROWN,
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MARCH 6, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 6, 2017

AN ACT

1 Providing for availability of electronic textbooks at
2 institutions of higher education.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Electronic
7 Versions of Textbooks Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Institution of higher education." A public or private
13 institution within this Commonwealth authorized by the
14 Department of Education to grant an associate degree or higher
15 degree. The term includes branch or satellite campuses of the
16 institution.

17 Section 3. Electronic versions of textbooks.

1 No later than January 1, 2020, any entity that publishes
2 textbooks offered for sale at an institution of higher education
3 shall, to the extent practicable, make the textbooks available,
4 in whole or in part, for sale in electronic format. The
5 electronic version of any textbook shall contain the same
6 content as the printed version and may be copy-protected.

7 Section 4. Copyright.

8 This act does not authorize any use of instructional
9 materials that would constitute an infringement of copyright
10 under 17 U.S.C. (relating to copyrights).

11 Section 5. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect immediately.