S T A T E  O F  N E W  Y O R K

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I N  S E N A T E

May 6, 2016

Introduced by Sen. HAMILTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT requiring the boards of trustees of the state university of New York and the city university of New York to conduct a joint study and report on the availability and accessibility of alternative high-quality, lower cost course resources in lieu of traditional textbooks

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The board of trustees of the state university of New York shall conduct a study and prepare a report on the availability and accessibility of alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources in lieu of traditional textbooks, which may include open education resources, online textbooks and other related educational materials, to students enrolled in the state university or a community college. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) an overview of current initiatives undertaken by the board of trustees of the state university of New York to facilitate access to high-quality, lower-cost alternatives to traditional textbooks;

(b) information related to average traditional textbook costs, the number of students who have used alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources, and cost savings of students who have purchased such high-quality, lower-cost alternatives in lieu of traditional textbooks;

(c) any challenges associated with making more alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources widely available;

(d) information regarding other states' best practices, models and initiatives to reduce overall textbook costs at institutions of higher education; and

(e) recommendations on how to expand the use, accessibility, and distribution of alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources.

S 2. The board of trustees of the city university of New York shall conduct a study and prepare a report on the availability and accessibility of alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources in lieu of traditional textbooks, which may include open education resources, online textbooks and other related educational materials, to students

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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enrolled in the city university of New York. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) an overview of current initiatives undertaken by the board of trustees of the city university of New York to facilitate access to high-quality, lower-cost alternatives to traditional textbooks;

(b) information related to average traditional textbook costs, the number of students who have used alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources, and cost savings of students who have purchased such high-quality, lower-cost alternatives in lieu of traditional textbooks;

(c) any challenges associated with making more alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources widely available;

(d) information regarding other states' best practices, models and initiatives to reduce overall textbook costs at institutions of higher education; and

(e) recommendations on how to expand the use, accessibility, and distribution of alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources.

S 3. The board of trustees of the state university of New York and the board of trustees of the city university of New York shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the chairs of the higher education committees in the assembly and senate within one year of the effective date of this act.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.