



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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Passed
12/05/00

A.R. 22 Resolution Calling for Elimination of Sales Tax on Textbooks

Whereas: The cost of textbooks, which is already high, is steadily increasing due to advances in technology requiring students to purchase software, CD-ROMs, and expensive new editions of books for their classes.

Whereas: According to College Board statistics, the average student at a four-year public university spends \$704 on books each year.

(<http://www.collegeboard.org/press/cost00/html/exhibit3.html>)

Whereas: The State of Texas already provides a sales tax holiday for back-to-school items like clothes, and textbooks are even more essential to a student's education.

Whereas: A reduction in the cost of textbooks will allow students to purchase supplemental materials that can enhance the quality of their education and academic performance.

Whereas: Lower costs will allow students to buy not only the textbooks, but also study guides and other supplemental materials; thus, improving academic performance as well as improving sales for retailers.

Whereas: Representative Henry Cuellar has proposed legislation to eliminate sales tax on textbooks for students in Texas colleges and universities, which would reduce textbook costs for students by saving them an average of approximately \$60 per year, and improving the quality of their academic experience.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin lends its full support to Representative Henry Cuellar's proposed bill to eliminate sales tax on textbooks.

Sponsored by: Legislative Relations Agency Co-Directors Hilary Lefko and Lauren Virgil, Representative Greg Hammond (Graduate), and Representative Elliot Kruppa (Business), Representative Hollye Sears (Fine Arts), Vice President Matt Hammond, Executive Director Jarrad Toussaint, Attorney General Jake Olcott