



NEW JERSEY

# Association of State Colleges and Universities

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**Assembly Higher Education Committee  
October 23, 2014  
Assembly Bill No. 2809**

Requires Institutions of Higher Education to Develop Open Textbooks Available to Students at No Charge and Requires Buyback of Used Textbooks at 50 Percent of Purchase Price

The state colleges and universities oppose this bill. All of the bookstores at the state colleges and universities are outsourced to third parties. We have concerns about the potential impact this bill will have on current and future contracts with these bookstores.

Moreover, research has indicated that today's students, despite their high level of technology savviness, prefer traditional textbooks over electronic books:

- William Douglas Woody, David B. Daniel, & Crystal A. Baker (2010). E-books or textbooks: Students prefer textbooks. *Computers & Education*, vol. 55, pp. 945-948. <http://clintlalonde.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Woody-et-al.-2010-E-books-or-textbooks-Students-prefer-textbooks.pdf>
- Recent experiences at colleges and universities support the findings in these studies. A pilot program at the University of Iowa in the fall of 2012 involving 600 students across 17 different courses indicated that most students preferred print books, and had no significant difference in grades. [www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2014/02/11/little-interest-e-textbooks-among-u-iowa-students#sthash.pY62HaWg.dbs](http://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2014/02/11/little-interest-e-textbooks-among-u-iowa-students#sthash.pY62HaWg.dbs)

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