

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1539
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Author:	Sen. Stanislawski
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Bill Analysis

SB 1539 removes references to the State Textbook Committee and directs the State Department of Education to establish a transparent, digital process to review textbooks and other instructional materials. The process must be conducted entirely online. Beginning with subjects that are scheduled for review in the 2021-22 school year in accordance with the subject area textbook adoption cycle, the Department must review textbooks and other instructional materials to determine the degree to which each aligns with the state subject matter standards. The measure outlines a method for the review process and directs the Department to post online and provide to school districts' local textbook committees a list of all textbooks and other instructional materials reviewed by the Department, including the degree to which they align with the subject matter standards.

The measure clarifies that nothing prohibits a school district from purchasing or acquiring textbooks and instructional materials that have not been reviewed by the Department. If a district chooses to purchase materials that did not receive a review from the Department, its local textbook committee must review and provide input, provide an opportunity for parents, legal guardians and other members of the public to provide input, and include a link on its website to showing the review process. The measure authorizes the State Board of Education shall select textbooks.

The measure directs the Department to support school district boards of education in achieving cost efficiencies and reducing regulatory burdens in the purchase and acquisition of textbooks and other instructional materials. Districts may purchase textbooks and instructional materials through a state contract, a central depository, or directly from the publisher or content provider. The measure directs the Department to provide for a central repository for textbooks and instructional materials that are aligned to the state subject matter standards. Implementation of the bill is contingent on certification of election results favoring passage of SJR 24.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor