



RUSA Resolution S19-01

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Sponsor: Legislative Affairs Committee

Resolution to Advocate for A327/1149/3254

Whereas, the mounting textbook costs for many courses often make attending higher education institutions unattainable for many students;

Whereas, Rutgers students spend up to \$1,500 annually on textbooks, according to NJPIRG¹;

Whereas, initiatives at Rutgers pertaining to open textbooks have already saved students up to \$2 million in spending, which has proven to lead to higher grades amongst students;

Whereas, the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) has identified the issue of open textbooks and course material affordability to be one of shared concern between both undergraduates and lawmakers;

Whereas, several members of the New Jersey Legislature have introduced bills that would require public institutions of higher learning in New Jersey to submit a plan to the Secretary of Higher Education to transition universities' most popular courses towards open textbook usage;

Whereas, the New Jersey Senate version of the bill passed unanimously in 2018 and the New Jersey Assembly version of the bill passed committee unanimously and is awaiting action; and

Whereas, legislators and staff have been eager to work with the Legislative Affairs Committee to bring this issue to the forefront of the Assembly and aid in efforts to bring it to the floor for a Spring vote;

Be it hereby resolved that RUSA endorses Assembly bills 327, 1149, and 3254² and their efforts to encourage a mass transition to open textbooks at New Jersey university campuses; and

¹ ["Estimated Savings from Rutgers Open and Affordable Textbooks Program Tops \\$2.1 Million in its Second Year"](#) by Rutgers University Libraries

² [Assembly Committee Substitute for A327/1149/3254](#)

Be it further resolved that RUSA supports advocacy efforts to bring Assembly bills 327, 1149, and 3254 to the floor of the Assembly for a vote.

RUSA President

Date