



# JORDAN CUNNINGHAM

REPRESENTING THE 35TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



## AB 2385 – College Textbooks

### Background

Current state law does not give students the right to information about new editions of textbooks. It also does not require detailed descriptions of differences in content between a new edition and the previous edition, which are sometimes minor. Moreover, to the extent that current law *does* call for disclosure of differences between editions, it mandates disclosure in some places but only “urges” disclosure in Section 66406.

### Problem Being Addressed

Many college students struggle to afford course materials. In some classes, they could save money by buying an older, less expensive edition of a book. But they often lack enough information about differences between editions to be able to judge whether buying an older edition would reduce their ability to do well in a class; in response, students sometimes buy expensive new editions when a less expensive older edition would have served just as well. In some admirable instances, publishers already provide enough detailed information for students to make informed decisions about whether to buy an old edition; but it is easy to find other instances in which not enough information is provided.

The purpose of AB 2385 is to reduce students’ course material costs. It achieves

this by amending Section 66406 so as to (1) give students the right to information about differences between editions; (2) urge that publishers describe these differences in enough detail for students to make informed decisions about whether a prior edition will suffice; (3) urge that publishers make this information easily available on their websites.

### Summary

AB 2385 seeks to lower college students’ textbook costs by increasing students’ ability to make informed decisions about when they can buy older, less expensive versions of books instead of more expensive new editions.

### Staff Contact

Taylor Melody: 916-319-2035

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
Department of Political Science: CA Bill Writing

Jaime Lee Bowker  
Political Science ('18)  
[jaimebowker@gmail.com](mailto:jaimebowker@gmail.com)  
(831)320-4790

Erin Chazer  
English, Political Science ('18)  
[echazer@calpoly.edu](mailto:echazer@calpoly.edu)  
(650)245-1936

Kaitlin Cook  
Political Science ('18)  
[kcook09@calpoly.edu](mailto:kcook09@calpoly.edu)  
(916)230-4262

Sara Marie Eddy  
Environmental Earth Sciences ('18)  
[smeddy@calpoly.edu](mailto:smeddy@calpoly.edu)  
(360)628-7360

Chase Dean  
Political Science ('18)  
[chdean@calpoly.edu](mailto:chdean@calpoly.edu)  
(951)520-7156

Michael Huber  
Political Science ('18)  
[mihuber@calpoly.edu](mailto:mihuber@calpoly.edu)  
(805)395-0861

Joey Halabrin  
Political Science ('18)  
[joeyhalabrin@gmail.com](mailto:joeyhalabrin@gmail.com)  
(909)455-8040

Michael Kelker  
Political Science ('19)  
[mkelker@calpoly.edu](mailto:mkelker@calpoly.edu)  
(408)421-1519

Ivana Medina  
Political Science ('18)  
[ivanabrooke2014@gmail.com](mailto:ivanabrooke2014@gmail.com)  
(951)224-3012

Juan Jose Moreno  
Statistics, Political Science ('20)  
[jmoren48@calpoly.edu](mailto:jmoren48@calpoly.edu)  
(810)343-5160  
[www.linkedin.com/in/juan-m](http://www.linkedin.com/in/juan-m)

Anna Rulloda  
Political Science ('19)  
[rulloda@calpoly.edu](mailto:rulloda@calpoly.edu)  
(714)501-7410

Ana Tienda  
Political Science ('19)  
[atienda@calpoly.edu](mailto:atienda@calpoly.edu)  
(831)256-8834

Victoria Tonikian  
Political Science ('17)  
[victoriatonikian@gmail.com](mailto:victoriatonikian@gmail.com)  
(949)392-0662

Jesse Vallejo  
Political Science ('18)  
[jjvallej@calpoly.edu](mailto:jjvallej@calpoly.edu)  
(831)245-9832

Lindsey Wallace  
Political Science ('18)  
[liwallac@calpoly.edu](mailto:liwallac@calpoly.edu)  
(559)916-7245  
UW Seattle, MPA ('20)