

By: Lucio III, Raymond, et al.

H.B. No. 452

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to temporary housing between academic terms for certain  
3 postsecondary students who have been under the conservatorship of  
4 the Department of Family and Protective Services.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 51.976 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.976. TEMPORARY HOUSING BETWEEN ACADEMIC TERMS FOR  
9 CERTAIN STUDENTS FORMERLY UNDER CONSERVATORSHIP OF DEPARTMENT OF  
10 FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES. (a) In this section:

11 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning  
12 assigned by Section 61.003.

13 (2) "Academic term" includes a summer session.

14 (b) To be eligible to receive housing assistance from an  
15 institution of higher education under Subsection (c), a student  
16 must:

17 (1) have been under the conservatorship of the  
18 Department of Family and Protective Services or its predecessor in  
19 function on the day preceding:

20 (A) the student's 18th birthday; or

21 (B) the date the student's disabilities of  
22 minority are removed by a court under Chapter 31, Family Code;

23 (2) be enrolled full-time at the institution during  
24 the academic term immediately preceding the period for which the

1 student requests the housing assistance;

2 (3) be registered or otherwise have taken the actions  
3 required by the institution to permit the student to enroll  
4 full-time at the institution during the academic term immediately  
5 following the period for which the student requests the housing  
6 assistance; and

7 (4) lack other reasonable temporary housing  
8 alternatives between the academic terms described by Subdivisions  
9 (2) and (3), as determined by the institution.

10 (c) On the student's request, each institution of higher  
11 education shall assist an eligible student in locating temporary  
12 housing for any period beginning on the last day of an academic term  
13 and ending on the first day of the immediately following academic  
14 term, according to the institution's academic calendar.

15 (d) For each eligible student under Subsection (b) who also  
16 demonstrates financial need, the institution may:

17 (1) provide a stipend to cover any reasonable costs of  
18 the temporary housing that are not covered by other financial aid  
19 immediately available to the student for that purpose; or

20 (2) provide temporary housing directly to the student  
21 for the applicable period.

22 (e) The receipt of a stipend under Subsection (d) does not  
23 prohibit the student from receiving additional stipends under that  
24 subsection in one or more subsequent periods, based on the  
25 student's demonstrated financial need.

26 (f) An institution of higher education may use any available  
27 revenue, including legislative appropriations, and may solicit and

1 accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this  
2 section. The institution shall use any gifts, grants, and  
3 donations received for the purposes of this section before using  
4 other revenue.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.