

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) be enrolled full-time at the institution during 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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 452 was passed by the House on May 13, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 452 was passed by the Senate on May 25, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor