

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1705

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 STUDENTS FORMERLY UNDER CONSERVATORSHIP OF DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND
10 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) at any time before the student's 18th birthday,
18 have been under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and
19 Protective Services or its predecessor in function;

20 (2) be enrolled full-time at the institution during
21 the academic term immediately preceding the period for which the
22 student requests the housing assistance;

23 (3) be registered or otherwise have taken the actions
24 required by the institution to permit the student to enroll

1 full-time at the institution during the academic term immediately
2 following the period for which the student requests the housing
3 assistance; and

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

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

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

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

17 (2) provide temporary housing directly to the student
18 for the applicable period.

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

23 (f) An institution of higher education may use any available
24 revenue, including legislative appropriations, and may solicit and
25 accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this
26 section. The institution shall use any gifts, grants, and
27 donations received for the purposes of this section before using

1 other revenue.

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