

By: White, Rose, Giddings, Neave, et al.

H.B. No. 928

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to assisting certain children who are in foster care in the process of applying to institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.1211 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.1211. FACILITATION OF TRANSITION TO INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. (a) In this section, "community resource coordination group" means a coordination group established under a memorandum of understanding under Section 531.055, Government Code.

(b) A department employee who is a member of a community resource coordination group shall inform the group about the tuition and fee waivers for institutions of higher education that are available to eligible children in foster care under Section 54.366, Education Code.

(c) Each school district, in coordination with the department, shall facilitate the transition of each child enrolled in the district who is eligible for a tuition and fee waiver under Section 54.366, Education Code, and who is likely to be in the conservatorship of the department on the day preceding the child's 18th birthday to an institution of higher education by:

(1) assisting the child with the completion of any applications for admission or for financial aid;

1 (2) arranging and accompanying the child on campus
2 visits;

3 (3) assisting the child in researching and applying
4 for private or institution-sponsored scholarships;

5 (4) identifying whether the child is a candidate for
6 appointment to a military academy;

7 (5) assisting the child in registering and preparing
8 for college entrance examinations, including, subject to the
9 availability of funds, arranging for the payment of any examination
10 fees by the department; and

11 (6) coordinating contact between the child and a
12 liaison officer designated under Section [61.0908](#), Education Code,
13 for students who were formerly in the department's conservatorship.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.