

By: Thierry, et al.

H.B. No. 809

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to measures to assist students enrolled at public
3 institutions of higher education who are homeless or who were
4 formerly in foster care.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 51.9356, Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.9356. DESIGNATION OF LIAISON OFFICER TO ASSIST
9 STUDENTS WHO WERE FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE OR WHO ARE HOMELESS. (a)
10 In this section:

11 (1) "Institution" [~~,"institution"~~] of higher education"
12 has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

13 (2) "Students who are homeless" has the meaning
14 assigned to the term "homeless children and youths" under 42 U.S.C.
15 Section 11434a and includes students who reside in a student
16 housing facility maintained by an institution of higher education
17 during an academic term but who are homeless between academic
18 terms.

19 (b) Each institution of higher education shall designate at
20 least one employee of the institution to act as a liaison officer
21 for current and incoming:

22 (1) students [~~at the institution~~] who were formerly in
23 the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective
24 Services; and

1 (2) students who are homeless.

2 (c) An institution of higher education may designate under
3 Subsection (b) the same employee or employees to act as liaison
4 officer for each student population described in that subsection or
5 one or more different employees to act as liaison officer for each
6 of those student populations separately. A [The] liaison officer
7 shall provide to the [these] students for whom the officer is
8 designated information regarding support services including
9 financial aid, on-campus and off-campus housing, food and meal
10 programs, and counseling services, [and] other resources available
11 to the students at the institution of higher education, and any
12 other relevant information to assist the students.

13 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 51.978, Education Code,
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 Sec. 51.978. TEMPORARY HOUSING BETWEEN ACADEMIC TERMS FOR
16 CERTAIN STUDENTS WHO WERE FORMERLY UNDER CONSERVATORSHIP OF
17 DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES OR WHO ARE HOMELESS.

18 SECTION 3. Section 51.978(a), Education Code, is amended by
19 adding Subdivision (3) to read as follows:

20 (3) "Students who are homeless" has the meaning
21 assigned to the term "homeless children and youths" under 42 U.S.C.
22 Section 11434a and includes students who reside in a student
23 housing facility maintained by an institution of higher education
24 during an academic term but who are homeless between academic
25 terms.

26 SECTION 4. Section 51.978(b), Education Code, is amended to
27 read as follows:

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

4 (1) be:

5 (A) a student who has [~~have~~] been under the
6 conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services
7 or its predecessor in function on the day preceding:

8 (i) [~~(A)~~] the student's 18th birthday; or

9 (ii) [~~(B)~~] the date the student's
10 disabilities of minority are removed by a court under Chapter 31,
11 Family Code; or

12 (B) a student who is homeless;

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

16 (3) be registered or otherwise have taken the actions
17 required by the institution to permit the student to enroll
18 full-time at the institution during the academic term immediately
19 following the period for which the student requests the housing
20 assistance; and

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

24 SECTION 5. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
25 amended by adding Section 51.9781 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 51.9781. PRIORITY ACCESS TO STUDENT HOUSING FOR
27 STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS. (a) In this section:

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

3 (2) "Students who are homeless" has the meaning
4 assigned to the term "homeless children and youths" under 42 U.S.C.
5 Section 11434a and includes students who reside in a student
6 housing facility maintained by an institution of higher education
7 during an academic term but who are homeless between academic
8 terms.

9 (b) Each institution of higher education that maintains
10 student housing facilities shall give priority in the assignment of
11 housing in those facilities to students who are homeless.

12 SECTION 6. Section 61.0908, Education Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 61.0908. DESIGNATION OF LIAISON OFFICER TO ASSIST
15 STUDENTS WHO WERE FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE OR WHO ARE HOMELESS. (a)
16 In this section, "students who are homeless" has the meaning
17 assigned to the term "homeless children and youths" under 42 U.S.C.
18 Section 11434a and includes students who reside in a student
19 housing facility maintained by an institution of higher education
20 during an academic term but who are homeless between academic
21 terms.

22 (b) The board shall designate at least one employee of the
23 board to act as a liaison officer for the following current and
24 incoming students at institutions of higher education:

25 (1) students who were formerly in the conservatorship
26 of the Department of Family and Protective Services; and

27 (2) students who are homeless.

1 (c) The board may designate under Subsection (b) the same
2 employee or employees to act as liaison officer for each student
3 population described in that subsection or one or more different
4 employees to act as liaison officer for each of those student
5 populations separately. A [The] liaison officer shall assist the
6 students for whom the officer is designated in coordinating college
7 readiness and student success efforts relating to the [those]
8 students.

9 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.