

By: Thierry

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) The liaison officer shall:

3 (1) contact a person designated under 42 U.S.C.
4 Section 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii) as necessary to facilitate the
5 transition of students described by Subsection (b) from secondary
6 to postsecondary education; and

7 (2) provide to those students information regarding
8 support services and other resources available to the students at
9 the institution of higher education, including information about
10 financial aid, on-campus and off-campus housing, food and meal
11 programs, counseling services, and any other relevant information
12 to assist the students.

13 (d) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
14 adopt rules and establish policies and procedures to ensure that a
15 liaison officer designated under this section to serve students who
16 are homeless participates in a professional development program
17 under 42 U.S.C. Section 11432(d)(5).

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

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

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

25 (3) "Students who are homeless" has the meaning
26 assigned to the term "homeless children and youths" under 42 U.S.C.
27 Section 11434a and includes students who reside in a student

1 housing facility maintained by an institution of higher education
2 during an academic term but who are homeless between academic
3 terms.

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

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

9 (1) be:

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

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

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

17 (B) a student who is homeless;

18 (2) be enrolled full-time at the institution during
19 the academic term:

20 (A) for which the student requests the housing
21 assistance; or

22 (B) immediately preceding the period for which
23 the student requests the housing assistance;

24 (3) be registered or otherwise have taken the actions
25 required by the institution to permit the student to enroll
26 full-time at the institution during the academic term immediately
27 following the period for which the student requests the housing

1 assistance; and

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

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

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

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

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

17 (b) An institution of higher education that maintains
18 student housing facilities shall give priority in the assignment of
19 housing in those facilities to students who are homeless.

20 SECTION 6. Section 61.0908, Education Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 Sec. 61.0908. DESIGNATION OF LIAISON OFFICER TO ASSIST
23 STUDENTS WHO WERE FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE OR WHO ARE HOMELESS. (a)
24 In this section, "students who are homeless" has the meaning
25 assigned to the term "homeless children and youths" under 42 U.S.C.
26 Section 11434a and includes students who reside in a student
27 housing facility maintained by an institution of higher education

1 during an academic term but who are homeless between academic
2 terms.

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

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

8 (2) students who are homeless.

9 (c) The liaison officer shall assist in coordinating
10 college readiness and student success efforts relating to [~~these~~]
11 students described by Subsection (b).

12 (d) The board shall establish policies and procedures to
13 ensure that a liaison officer designated under this section to
14 serve students who are homeless participates in a professional
15 development program under 42 U.S.C. Section 11432(d)(5).

16 SECTION 7. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
17 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
18 shall adopt rules and establish policies and procedures as required
19 by Section 51.9356, Education Code, as amended by this Act.

20 (b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this
21 Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall establish
22 policies and procedures as required by Section 61.0908, Education
23 Code, as amended by this Act.

24 (c) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Texas Higher
25 Education Coordinating Board shall designate a liaison officer as
26 required by Section 61.0908, Education Code, as amended by this
27 Act.

1 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.