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H.B. No. 1702

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to services provided for students at public institutions of higher education who are or were in foster care.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 51.9356, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9356. DESIGNATION OF LIAISON OFFICER TO ASSIST STUDENTS WHO ARE OR WERE [~~FORMERLY~~] IN FOSTER CARE.

SECTION 2. Section 51.9356, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(b) Each institution of higher education shall designate at least one employee of the institution to act as a liaison officer for current and incoming students at the institution who are or were formerly in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services. To the extent allowed by state or federal law, the institution shall identify those students from information provided to the institution in admission or financial aid applications or other available resources.

(c) Each semester or other academic term, an institution of higher education shall provide to the institution's liaison officer the names of and information regarding the students described by Subsection (b).

(d) The liaison officer shall provide to the [~~these~~]

1 students described by Subsection (b) information regarding support
2 services and other resources available to the students at the
3 institution and any other relevant information to assist the
4 students.

5 (e) The liaison officer may participate in any training that
6 enables the officer to carry out the officer's duties and
7 coordinate with liaison officers at other educational
8 institutions.

9 (f) Each institution of higher education shall publicize,
10 including through the institution's Internet website, social
11 media, electronic mail, or other means of communication used by the
12 institution:

13 (1) the name of and contact information for the
14 institution's liaison officer; and

15 (2) information regarding support services and other
16 resources available at the institution to the students described by
17 Subsection (b).

18 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2020, each public
19 institution of higher education shall publicize the information
20 required by Section 51.9356(f), Education Code, as added by this
21 Act.

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