

By: Hancock

S.B. No. 1357

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

Sec. 51.9356. DESIGNATION OF LIAISON OFFICER TO ASSIST STUDENTS FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Department" means the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

(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 were formerly in the conservatorship of the department [~~Department of Family and Protective Services~~].

(c) The liaison officer shall:

(1) obtain at least annually the names of and information regarding current and incoming students at the institution of higher education who were formerly in the conservatorship of the department; and

(2) provide to those students information regarding support services and other resources available to the students at

1 the institution and any other relevant information to assist the
2 students.

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

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

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

13 (2) information regarding support services and other
14 resources available at the institution to students who were
15 formerly in the conservatorship of the department.

16 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2020, each institution
17 of higher education shall publicize the information required by
18 Section 51.9356(e), Education Code, as added by this Act.

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