

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1540

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the designation of support services liaison officers at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9358 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9358. DESIGNATION OF SUPPORT SERVICES LIAISON OFFICER TO ASSIST STUDENTS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "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 or incoming students at the institution. The liaison officer shall provide to the students comprehensive information regarding support services and other resources available to the students, including:

(1) resources to access:

(A) medical and behavioral health coverage and services; and

(B) public benefit programs, including programs related to food security, affordable housing, and housing subsidies;

- 1 (2) public benefit program case management assistance
- 2 and counseling;
- 3 (3) parenting and child care resources;
- 4 (4) employment assistance;
- 5 (5) financial counseling and tax preparation
- 6 assistance;
- 7 (6) transportation assistance;
- 8 (7) student academic success strategies; and
- 9 (8) any other resources developed by the institution
- 10 to assist the students.

11 (c) An institution of higher education may designate under
12 Subsection (b) the same employee to act as liaison officer as the
13 employee designated under Section 51.9356 to act as liaison officer
14 for current and incoming students at the institution who were
15 formerly in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and
16 Protective Services.

17 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
18 academic year.

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.