

By: Johnson

S.B. No. 1324

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a housing assistance pilot program to assist certain students enrolled in public junior colleges.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter N to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. HOUSING ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 130.401. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "pilot program" means the housing assistance pilot program established under this subchapter.

Sec. 130.402. PILOT PROGRAM PURPOSE. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide needs-based grants to assist eligible students in the payment of the cost of maintaining housing, including payments for eviction prevention, rental payments, and deposit fees for rental units.

Sec. 130.403. ADMINISTRATION OF PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall administer the pilot program in coordination with the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless. The coordinating board shall:

(1) create a housing assistance fund for the duration of the pilot program; and

(2) deposit in the fund for each academic year of the

1 pilot program an amount equal to the amount of any gifts, grants,  
2 donations, or appropriations designated for the program.

3 (b) If the pilot program is not continued by law as of August  
4 31, 2029, any money remaining in the fund shall be credited to the  
5 general revenue fund on that date.

6 Sec. 130.404. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS. A junior college  
7 district with an enrollment of 40,000 students or more is eligible  
8 to participate in the pilot program.

9 Sec. 130.405. ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT. (a) The Texas Higher  
10 Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with the staff of the  
11 participating public junior colleges, including student support  
12 specialists, the Texas Homeless Network, and homeless response  
13 system leads for the areas in which participating junior colleges  
14 are located, shall establish eligibility criteria for students to  
15 receive a grant under the pilot program. The eligibility criteria  
16 must:

17 (1) require an applicant to be enrolled at a  
18 participating public junior college; and

19 (2) allow for the consideration of an applicant's  
20 FAFSA application data or other relevant information.

21 (b) The coordinating board may apply the eligibility  
22 criteria to create a formula for the disbursement of money under the  
23 pilot program.

24 Sec. 130.406. THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR. (a) The Texas  
25 Higher Education Coordinating Board may contract with a third party  
26 to design and administer the pilot program in consultation with the  
27 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Texas

1 Interagency Council for the Homeless.

2 (b) A third party administrator shall report to the  
3 coordinating board and the Texas Education Agency in the manner  
4 agreed to under a contract entered into under this section.

5 Sec. 130.407. REPORTS. (a) Not later than October 1 of  
6 each even-numbered year, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating  
7 Board shall prepare a report on the effectiveness of the pilot  
8 program. The report must include a recommendation regarding  
9 whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or  
10 terminated.

11 (b) The coordinating board shall deliver a copy of the  
12 report to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
13 representatives, and each standing committee of the legislature  
14 having primary jurisdiction over higher education.

15 Sec. 130.408. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires  
16 September 1, 2029.

17 SECTION 2. Subchapter N, Chapter 130, Education Code, as  
18 added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic  
19 year.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.