

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 906

BY REPRESENTATIVES ARMES AND BILLIOT

HIGHER EDUCATION: Provides relative to postsecondary education services for homeless and foster youth

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part XIII of Chapter 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to
3 be comprised of R.S. 17:3399.21 through 3399.24, relative to postsecondary
4 education services for homeless youth and foster youth; to require each public
5 postsecondary education institution to designate a homeless and foster student liaison
6 and to provide for his responsibilities; to authorize the institutions to provide for
7 these students with respect to residency status and housing; to provide for
8 definitions; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Part XIII of Chapter 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
11 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:3399.21 through 3399.24, is hereby enacted to read as
12 follows:

13 PART XIII. HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH

14 §3399.21. Definitions

15 As used in this Part, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

16 (1) "Homeless youth" means any individual under twenty-five years of age
17 who has been verified, at any time during the six years prior to his enrollment in a
18 public postsecondary education institution, as a homeless child or youth as defined
19 in 42 U.S.C. 11434a(2) by at least one of the following:

20 (a) A governmental or nonprofit agency that receives federal, state, parish,
21 or municipal funding to provide services to homeless persons or that is otherwise
22 sanctioned to provide these services by a homeless continuum of care organization.

1 (b) An attorney licensed to practice law in this state.

2 (c) A local education agency liaison for homeless children and youth
3 designated as such pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii) or a school social
4 worker.

5 (d) A human services provider or public social services provider funded by
6 the state to provide services for homeless children and youth, including health
7 services, mental or behavioral health services, substance use disorder services, or
8 public assistance or employment services.

9 (e) A law enforcement officer designated as a liaison to the homeless
10 population by a law enforcement agency or department within the state.

11 (f) The director of a federal TRIO program or his designee.

12 (g) A court-appointed special advocate (CASA) employee or volunteer.

13 (h) A financial aid administrator.

14 (2) "Foster youth" means any individual in the care, custody, or guardianship
15 of the Department of Children and Family Services in the foster care program for any
16 six of the seventy-two months immediately prior to his eighteenth birthday.

17 §3399.22. Homeless and foster student liaisons

18 Each public postsecondary education institution shall designate a homeless
19 and foster student liaison within its financial aid office. This liaison shall be
20 responsible for applying the provisions of the federal Higher Education Act
21 pertaining to the independent student status and financial aid eligibility of current
22 and former homeless and foster youth and shall assist these students, both current
23 and prospective, in applying for federal and state financial aid and other assistance
24 for which they may be eligible.

25 §3399.23. Residency status

26 Notwithstanding any provision of law or policy to the contrary, a public
27 postsecondary education institution may grant resident status to a student who
28 resides in Louisiana and is nineteen years of age or under at the time of enrollment,

1 regardless of how long he has resided in the state, if he is determined to have been
2 homeless at any time during the two years immediately preceding his enrollment.

3 §3399.24. Housing

4 In order to ensure that current and former homeless and foster youth have
5 access to stable housing, a public postsecondary education institution that offers
6 student housing may develop a plan to provide that these students have access to
7 housing resources as needed during and between academic terms. The plan may
8 grant them first priority for housing placement and provide that they be placed in the
9 institution's housing facility that remains open for occupation during the most days
10 in a calendar year.

11 Section 2. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Success for Homeless
12 and Foster Youth in Higher Education Act".

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 906 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Armes

Abstract: Provides for postsecondary education services for homeless and foster youth.

Proposed law defines "homeless youth" and "foster youth" and requires each public postsecondary education institution to designate a homeless and foster student liaison within its financial aid office who is responsible for applying the provisions of the federal Higher Education Act pertaining to these youth and for assisting such students, both current and prospective, in applying for financial aid and other assistance.

Proposed law authorizes each public postsecondary education institution to grant resident status to a student who resides in La. and is 19 or younger at the time of enrollment, regardless of how long he has resided in the state, if he is determined to have been homeless at any time during the two years immediately preceding enrollment. Also authorizes each institution that offers student housing to develop a plan to provide that current and former homeless and foster youth have access to housing resources during and between academic terms. Such plan may grant these students first priority for housing placement and provide that they be placed in the institution's housing facility that remains open for occupation during the most days in a calendar year.

(Adds R.S. 17:3399.21-3399.24)