

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS****HB 906****2016 Regular Session****Armes**

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

<p><b>Synopsis of Senate Amendments</b></p>
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| <p>1. Relative to those who may verify youths as homeless, replaces attorneys licensed to practice law in La. with attorneys appointed by the court to represent such youths and adds admissions counselors.</p> |
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**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Proposed law defines "homeless youth" as any individual under 25 years of age who has been verified, at any time during the six years prior to his enrollment in a public postsecondary education institution, as a homeless child or youth as defined in federal law by at least one of the following:

- (1) A governmental or nonprofit agency that receives public funding to provide services to homeless persons or that is otherwise sanctioned to provide these services by a homeless continuum of care organization.
- (2) An attorney appointed by the court to represent the youth.
- (3) A local education agency liaison for homeless children and youth designated as such pursuant to federal law or a school social worker.
- (4) A human services provider or public social services provider funded by the state to provide services for homeless children and youth, including health services, mental or behavioral health services, substance use disorder services, or public assistance or employment services.
- (5) A law enforcement officer designated as a liaison to the homeless population by a law enforcement agency or department within the state.
- (6) The director of a federal TRIO program or his designee.
- (7) A court-appointed special advocate (CASA) employee or volunteer.
- (8) A financial aid administrator.
- (9) An admissions counselor.

Proposed law defines "foster youth" as any individual in the care, custody, or guardianship of the Dept. of Children and Family Services in the foster care program for any six of the 72 months immediately prior to his 18th birthday.

Proposed law requires each public postsecondary education institution to designate a homeless and foster student liaison within its financial aid office 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)