

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAR-55013

Date introduced: February 6th, 2019

Author: Senator Chang

Sponsors: President Barrett, Director Hulett, Legislative Chief of Staff Pham, Senator Akil, Senator Caceres, Senator Do, Senator Jeffrey, Senator LaCourt, Senator Lamonte, Senator Louch, Senator Mehra, Senator Morgan, Senator Pen, Senator Potts, Senator Syed, Senator Vo, Senator White, Senator Veeramachaneni

Draft: Final

Resolution in Support of Texas House Bill 375

Whereas, Texas Rep. Gina Hinojosa has introduced a bill that would require polling locations on public university campuses with over 10,000 students¹;

Whereas, aforementioned bill would apply to the University of Houston, which had an enrollment of over 46,000 students in Fall 2018²;

Whereas, college students have limited time in their schedules that is not monopolized by classes, work, or extracurricular obligations;

Whereas, substantive periods of voting take place during the operating hours of a normal school day;

Whereas, faced with the lack of a vehicle, students must arrange alternative transportation to the polls through navigating public transportation, taking a costly ride-share, or walking;

Whereas, the journey towards the closest polling location to the University of Houston during the November 2018 election entailed a 12-minute bus ride, a ~\$10 ride-share, or a 40-minute walk³;

Whereas, the unavailability of polling locations on campus impedes the ability of both commuters and on-campus residents to exercise their right to vote;

¹ <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/billtext/html/HB003751.htm>

² <http://www.uh.edu/news-events/stories/2018/september-2018/09072018fall-enrollment.php>

³ <http://houstonlibrary.org/location/young-neighborhood-library>

Whereas, this demonstrated need pushed the Student Government Association to organize shuttles to the polls during the November 2018 election⁴;

Whereas, the 55th Administration of the Student Government Association made a concerted effort in the 2018 election season to promote student civic engagement;

Whereas, the responsibility should not be on college students to ensure that voting is accessible.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the Student Government Association of the University of Houston expresses its strong support for House Bill 375 and further reasonable efforts by the Texas Legislature to expand voting rights and accessibility for college students; and

Be it further resolved, that the Student Government Association additionally encourages the implementation of an on-campus early voting location;

Be it further resolved, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the state legislators and county election officials whose constituents are heavily represented within the University's enrollment.



Cameron Barrett
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 3/6/19

APPROVED



Kim Lorine
Speaker of Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 3/6/19

⁴ <http://thedailycougar.com/2018/10/22/early-voting-shuttles/>