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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 240

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 31 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING GENERAL FUNDS TO THE STUDENT EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND.

1 WHEREAS, in Fall 2020, the national Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice (Hope Center) assessed
2 students' basic needs security and their well-being, as indicated by employment status, academic engagement, and mental
3 health. In total, over 195,000 students from 130 two-year colleges and 72 four-year colleges and universities responded to
4 the 2020 survey; and

5 WHEREAS, the Hope Center determined 48% of surveyed students were affected by housing insecurity, and 14%
6 of surveyed students were affected by homelessness; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Hope Center surveyed 1,741 University of Delaware students and determined that 25%
8 of surveyed students were affected by housing insecurity in the previous year, and 10% of surveyed students were affected
9 by homelessness in the previous year; and

10 WHEREAS in the fall of 2017, Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC) surveyed 670 students and
11 determined that 13% of surveyed students were affected by homelessness at some point during the previous year, and 5.7
12 percent were affected by homelessness in the 30 days prior to the survey; and,

13 WHEREAS, since March 2020, 395 students at DTCC have requested emergency support, where 7% identified
14 their need as related to experiencing homelessness or preventing homelessness.

15 NOW, THEREFORE:

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

17 Section 1. Amend Subchapter II, Chapter 40, Title 31 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by
18 strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

19 § 4029. Korey Thompson Student Emergency Housing Assistance Fund.

20 (a) There is established the Korey Thompson Student Emergency Housing Assistance Fund for the benefit of
21 college and university students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, referred to in this section as the "Fund."

22 DSHA shall oversee and administer all funds deposited in the Fund, including any funds appropriated by the State to the
23 Fund, as well as any federal funds received from the American Rescue Plan or other COVID relief grants for this purpose.

24 (b) The Fund must be used exclusively for the provision of housing assistance to individuals enrolled in an
25 undergraduate program at any college or university in this State.

26 (c) DSHA shall develop eligibility criteria, an application process, appropriate limitations on assistance, and a
27 method of distribution.

28 (d) DSHA shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 of each year all expenditures
29 made from the Fund, including an accounting of how many individuals were served and what institution each individual
30 attended. No personal identifying information may be included in the report.

31 Section 2. For Fiscal Year 2022, \$90,000 is appropriated to the Korey Thompson Student Emergency Housing
32 Assistance Fund. Any funds that are not granted by the Delaware State Housing Authority by the end of Fiscal Year 2022
33 shall revert to the General Fund.

SYNOPSIS

This Act creates the Korey Thompson Student Emergency Housing Assistance Fund for the benefit of housing insecure undergraduate students at any college or university in Delaware and appropriates \$90,000 to the Fund for FY2022. DSHA is charged with administering the Fund and reporting to the Governor and the General Assembly how the funds are spent.