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**S.R. 2017-2018**

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**A Bill –**

**To be entitled “Diversity Liaison Act”, which would serve to establish a liaison for diversity outreach positions within student government, to advocate for underrepresented students on the administrative level, and ensure representation of their issues and concerns.**

**WHEREAS:**The faculty, staff, and students of Texas State University share the value of a diversity of people and ideas, a spirit of inclusiveness, a global perspective, and a sense of community as essential conditions for campus life (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2013.); and

**WHEREAS:**   According to Texas State University’s Office of Institutional Research, 48% percent of Texas State students are racial or ethnic minorities (2016.); and

**WHEREAS:**The Texas State University student body is comprised of individuals from different races, ethnicities, national origins, religions, sexual orientations, ages, abilities, and other identities; and

**WHEREAS:**   It is the duty of Student Government at Texas State University to be proactive in recruiting and encouraging the involvement of students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education; and

**WHEREAS:**Underrepresented students aredefined as those with African American, Native American, Hispanic, or Pacific Islands heritage; and

**WHEREAS:**   Underrepresented students are also defined as those who identify as differently-abled, veterans, LGBTQIA, international, first generation, or non-traditional students; and

**WHEREAS:**Student Government values democracy and is a representative-based organization which inclusively listens to the concerns of a diverse student body; and

**WHEREAS:**It is also the duty of Student Government at Texas State University to advocate for the needs and equal representation of all students on campus; therefore

**BE IT ENACTED:**    Upon passage, an application will open at the beginning of each fall semester and after review by the President and their cabinet, two applicants will be selected to serve as liaisons between Student Government and underrepresented student groups on campus; and

**BE IT ENACTED:**The liaison position will be open to all members of the student body who aren’t affiliated with Student Government; and

**BE IT ENACTED:**The liaisons will work directly with Student Involvement, the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion (SDI), the Underrepresented Student Advisory Council (USAC), and other organizations to advocate for underrepresented students on the administration level by bringing concerns of diverse students to the forefront; and

**BE IT ENACTED:**The liaisons will act as a direct link between Student Government and underrepresented student group leaders in order to ensure that any proposed legislation that impacts underrepresented student groups does not come out of Student Government without significant outreach and feedback; and

**BE IT ENACTED:**Both student liaisons will present a monthly report, during the last senate meeting of each month, to update the senate of their progress in collaborating with and addressing the issues of the previously mentioned organizations and entities; and

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:**   That upon passage, this legislation be forwarded to Student Body President Connor Clegg and Dean of Students Dr. Margarita Arellano for further action.