

By: Walle, Meza, Morales of Maverick, Ortega

H.B. No. 701

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to simplified certification and recertification  
3 requirements for certain persons under the supplemental nutrition  
4 assistance program.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 33.015(a), Human Resources Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a) In administering the supplemental nutrition assistance  
9 program, the commission shall, except as provided by Subsection (c)  
10 and Section 33.019, allow a person to comply with initial  
11 eligibility requirements, including any initial interview, and  
12 with subsequent periodic eligibility recertification requirements  
13 by telephone instead of through a personal appearance at commission  
14 offices if:

15 (1) the person and each member of the person's  
16 household:

17 (A) have no earned income; and

18 (B) are elderly or persons with disabilities; or

19 (2) the person is subject to a hardship, as determined  
20 by commission rule.

21 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code,  
22 is amended by adding Section 33.019 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 33.019. SIMPLIFIED CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION  
24 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN SNAP APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS. (a) The

1 commission shall develop and implement simplified certification  
2 and recertification requirements for supplemental nutrition  
3 assistance program benefits for an individual who:

4 (1) is 60 years of age or older or is a person with a  
5 disability, as determined by commission rule; and

6 (2) resides in a household in which every individual  
7 residing in the household is 60 years of age or older or is a person  
8 with a disability, as determined by commission rule.

9 (b) The simplified requirements must:

10 (1) allow an individual described by this section to  
11 waive recertification interview requirements;

12 (2) simplify and reduce the number of verification  
13 requirements for certifying and recertifying eligibility to  
14 receive benefits, which must include the use of a shortened  
15 application form; and

16 (3) allow the individual to remain eligible for  
17 benefits for 36 months after certification and after each  
18 recertification.

19 (c) An individual described by this section is required to:

20 (1) submit to the commission a change reporting form  
21 every 12 months during the 36-month eligibility period; and

22 (2) report to the commission, in accordance with  
23 federal law, when the individual receives an increase in income.

24 (d) The commission shall, in a manner that complies with  
25 federal law, use data matching to help enroll in the supplemental  
26 nutrition assistance program eligible individuals described by  
27 this section who are receiving Medicaid benefits. The commission

1 may seek or use private funding or contract with a public or private  
2 entity to carry out this section.

3 SECTION 3. Section 33.019, Human Resources Code, as added  
4 by this Act, applies only to an application or recertification of  
5 eligibility of a person for supplemental nutrition assistance  
6 program benefits submitted on or after January 1, 2022.

7 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
8 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
9 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
10 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
11 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
12 waiver or authorization is granted.

13 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.