

1-1 By: Perry, Menéndez, West S.B. No. 224
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed December 2, 2020; March 3, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human Services;
 1-4 March 22, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,
 1-5 Nays 0; March 22, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to simplified certification and recertification
 1-20 requirements for certain persons under the supplemental nutrition
 1-21 assistance program.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 33.015(a), Human Resources Code, is
 1-24 amended to read as follows:

1-25 (a) In administering the supplemental nutrition assistance
 1-26 program, the commission shall, except as provided by Subsection (c)
 1-27 and Section 33.019, allow a person to comply with initial
 1-28 eligibility requirements, including any initial interview, and
 1-29 with subsequent periodic eligibility recertification requirements
 1-30 by telephone instead of through a personal appearance at commission
 1-31 offices if:

1-32 (1) the person and each member of the person's
 1-33 household:

1-34 (A) have no earned income; and

1-35 (B) are elderly or persons with disabilities; or

1-36 (2) the person is subject to a hardship, as determined
 1-37 by commission rule.

1-38 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code,
 1-39 is amended by adding Section 33.019 to read as follows:

1-40 Sec. 33.019. SIMPLIFIED CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION
 1-41 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN SNAP APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS. (a) The
 1-42 commission shall develop and implement simplified certification
 1-43 and recertification requirements for supplemental nutrition
 1-44 assistance program benefits for an individual who:

1-45 (1) is 60 years of age or older or is a person with a
 1-46 disability, as determined by commission rule; and

1-47 (2) resides in a household in which every individual
 1-48 residing in the household is 60 years of age or older or is a person
 1-49 with a disability, as determined by commission rule.

1-50 (b) The simplified requirements must:

1-51 (1) allow an individual described by this section to
 1-52 waive recertification interview requirements;

1-53 (2) simplify and reduce the number of verification
 1-54 requirements for certifying and recertifying eligibility to
 1-55 receive benefits, which must include the use of a shortened
 1-56 application form; and

1-57 (3) allow the individual to remain eligible for
 1-58 benefits for 36 months after certification and after each
 1-59 recertification.

1-60 (c) An individual described by this section is required to:

1-61 (1) submit to the commission a change reporting form

2-1 every 12 months during the 36-month eligibility period; and
2-2 (2) report to the commission, in accordance with
2-3 federal law, when the individual receives an increase in income.

2-4 (d) The commission shall, in a manner that complies with
2-5 federal law, use data matching to help enroll in the supplemental
2-6 nutrition assistance program eligible individuals described by
2-7 this section who are receiving Medicaid benefits. The commission
2-8 may seek or use private funding or contract with a public or private
2-9 entity to carry out this section.

2-10 SECTION 3. Section 33.019, Human Resources Code, as added
2-11 by this Act, applies only to an application or recertification of
2-12 eligibility of a person for supplemental nutrition assistance
2-13 program benefits submitted on or after January 1, 2022.

2-14 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act
2-15 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
2-16 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
2-17 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
2-18 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
2-19 waiver or authorization is granted.

2-20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

2-21

* * * * *