

By: Walle

H.B. No. 740

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the eligibility of certain students enrolled in a
3 postsecondary educational institution for supplemental nutrition
4 assistance program benefits.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 33.020 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 33.020. SNAP ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN STUDENTS ENROLLED
9 IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) In this section,
10 "postsecondary educational institution" includes:

11 (1) an institution of higher education or a private or
12 independent institution of higher education, as those terms are
13 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; and

14 (2) a career school or college, as defined by Section
15 132.001, Education Code.

16 (b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules consistent
17 with federal law to provide supplemental nutrition assistance
18 program benefits to students enrolled in a postsecondary
19 educational institution. The rules must:

20 (1) identify the types of postsecondary degrees or
21 programs in which a student must be enrolled to qualify for the
22 benefits, including participation in any work placement or unpaid
23 internship associated with a postsecondary educational
24 institution; and

1 (2) ensure a student remains eligible for the benefits
2 during a break in the semester or academic term of the postsecondary
3 educational institution in which the student is enrolled.

4 (c) The executive commissioner shall establish a work group
5 to provide input for the adoption of rules under Subsection (b). In
6 adopting the rules, the executive commissioner shall consider the
7 work group's input.

8 (d) The work group must be composed of at least 9 but not
9 more than 13 members who are representatives of:

- 10 (1) postsecondary educational institutions; or
11 (2) nonprofit organizations that serve low-income
12 individuals, as defined by the executive commissioner.

13 (e) The executive commissioner shall:

14 (1) ensure work group members represent various types
15 of postsecondary educational institutions located throughout this
16 state; and

17 (2) appoint one work group member to serve as
18 presiding officer.

19 (f) The work group is automatically abolished on the
20 adoption of rules under Subsection (b).

21 (g) Subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) and this subsection
22 expire September 1, 2027.

23 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 31, 2025, the
24 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission
25 shall establish the work group required by Section 33.020, Human
26 Resources Code, as added by this Act.

27 (b) Not later than December 31, 2026, the executive

1 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
2 adopt the rules required by Section 33.020, Human Resources Code,
3 as added by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
5 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
6 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
7 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
8 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
9 waiver or authorization is granted.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.