

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program to facilitate food stamp program outreach efforts and eligibility determination processes.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.066 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.066. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM OUTREACH AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall develop and implement a pilot program in the South Texas region under which a private retail business that provides services related to the food stamp program administered under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, enters into an agreement with the commission to support outreach efforts and eligibility determinations for that program.

(b) Subject to state and federal laws governing the food stamp program, an agreement between a private retail business participating in the pilot program and the commission may require the business to:

(1) provide informational materials, including eligibility guidelines and eligibility redetermination information, to the customers of the business and other persons regarding the food stamp program;

(2) perform outreach services, as determined by the commission, with respect to the program; and

(3) provide space at the retail locations of the

1 business at which commission staff and contractors of the
2 commission may conduct outreach efforts and eligibility
3 determinations related to the program.

4 (b-1) An agreement between a private retail business
5 participating in the pilot program and the commission may authorize
6 the business to:

7 (1) implement strategies to encourage recipients of
8 food stamps who are also Medicaid recipients to engage in healthy
9 behaviors; and

10 (2) provide incentives to recipients described by
11 Subdivision (1) who are children younger than 21 years of age to
12 make timely health care visits under the early and periodic
13 screening, diagnosis, and treatment program.

14 (c) In developing the pilot program, the executive
15 commissioner may adopt rules regarding the requirements applicable
16 to a private retail business that participates in the program.

17 (d) Not later than December 1, 2008, the commission shall
18 submit a report to the legislature that includes:

19 (1) an evaluation of the pilot program, including the
20 program's effects on the food stamp program; and

21 (2) recommendations regarding the continuation or
22 expansion of the pilot program.

23 (e) This section expires September 1, 2009.

24 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
25 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
26 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
27 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or

H.B. No. 3571

1 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
2 waiver or authorization is granted.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

H.B. No. 3571

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3571 was passed by the House on May 9, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 117, Nays 23, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3571 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 117, Nays 20, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3571 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor