

By: Rose, Naishtat

H.B. No. 3571

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3571:

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C.S.H.B. No. 3571

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

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

11 (2) recommendations regarding the continuation or  
12 expansion of the pilot program.

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

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

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