

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 4022

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a study by the Health and Human Services Commission on
3 access to healthy foods.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) The Health and Human Services Commission
6 shall conduct a study on access to healthy foods in this state. The
7 commission may establish a work group to assist in conducting the
8 study. The work group may include representatives from other state
9 agencies, institutions of higher education, local governmental
10 entities, food councils, and other groups working to address food
11 access issues.

12 (b) The study conducted under Subsection (a) of this section
13 must include:

14 (1) an overview of access to healthy foods in this
15 state, including a breakdown of access to healthy foods by:

16 (A) urban areas;

17 (B) rural areas; and

18 (C) other geographic categories in this state;

19 (2) an overview of current programs related to
20 increasing access to healthy foods;

21 (3) an identification of best practices and successful
22 policies for increasing access to healthy foods and recommendations
23 for expanding those practices and policies in both urban and rural
24 areas;

1 (4) an examination of how economic, health, housing,
2 or transportation circumstances affect a person's or community's
3 access to healthy foods;

4 (5) an examination of food-purchasing practices,
5 including:

6 (A) the relation between where a person lives and
7 where that persons shops for food;

8 (B) the relation between where a person works and
9 where that person shops for food;

10 (C) the extent to which geographical distance
11 from a retail food store factors into a person's decision to shop at
12 that retail food store;

13 (D) the factors a person considers when choosing
14 to shop at a retail food store, including:

15 (i) the price of food;

16 (ii) the quality of food;

17 (iii) the type of food;

18 (iv) the convenience of shopping at the
19 retail food store; and

20 (v) any societal or communal factors;

21 (E) the price a person is willing to pay for food
22 in relation to its convenience, including the price a person is
23 willing to pay for food delivery services to avoid traffic or save
24 time;

25 (F) the relationship between household income
26 and food-purchasing practices;

27 (G) the preferred methods that people use to

1 travel to retail food stores, including a breakdown by county; and

2 (H) other factors, such as environment, culture,
3 and income, that affect food-purchasing practices; and

4 (6) an evaluation of the benefits of implementing an
5 online purchasing program for persons participating in the federal
6 supplemental nutrition assistance program operated under 7 U.S.C.
7 Section 2011 et seq. and how an online purchasing program will
8 impact those persons.

9 (c) Not later than January 1, 2019, the Health and Human
10 Services Commission shall submit a written report to the
11 legislature with the results of the study required under Subsection
12 (a) of this section and recommendations for improving access to
13 healthy foods based on the findings of that study.

14 (d) This section expires September 1, 2019.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.