

By: Walle, Hernandez, Raymond, et al.

H.B. No. 2335

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the disaster supplemental nutrition assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0025 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0025. DISASTER SNAP. (a) In this section, "program" means the program to provide supplemental nutrition assistance benefits to victims of a disaster as authorized by 7 U.S.C. Section 2014.

(b) The commission shall:

(1) collaborate with county judges to:

(A) evaluate, develop, and maintain a list of potential sites that meet federal requirements for in-person application for program benefits; and

(B) annually update the list developed under Paragraph (A); and

(2) assess the feasibility of, subject to being granted any necessary federal waiver:

(A) accepting program benefits applications online and by telephone; and

(B) staffing a high-volume call center to process those applications.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date

1 of this Act:

2 (1) the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
3 consult with federal officials, including the members of the Texas  
4 delegation to the United States Senate and House of Representatives  
5 and the United States Department of Agriculture regarding repealing  
6 the in-person application requirement for supplemental nutrition  
7 assistance benefits for victims of a disaster; and

8 (2) the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
9 Services Commission shall, if necessary, develop and seek a waiver  
10 or other appropriate authorization from the United States secretary  
11 of agriculture to allow submission of applications online and by  
12 telephone for supplemental nutrition assistance benefits for  
13 victims of a disaster.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.