

By: Meza

H.B. No. 3931

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to simplified certification and recertification  
3 requirements for certain persons under the supplemental nutrition  
4 assistance program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 33.015(a), Human Resources Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a) In administering the supplemental nutrition assistance  
9 program, the commission shall, except as provided by Subsection (c)  
10 and Section 33.019, allow a person to comply with initial  
11 eligibility requirements, including any initial interview, and  
12 with subsequent periodic eligibility recertification requirements  
13 by telephone instead of through a personal appearance at commission  
14 offices if:

15 (1) the person and each member of the person's  
16 household:

17 (A) have no earned income; and

18 (B) are elderly or persons with disabilities; or

19 (2) the person is subject to a hardship, as determined  
20 by commission rule.

21 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code,  
22 is amended by adding Section 33.019 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 33.019. SIMPLIFIED CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION  
24 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN SNAP APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS. (a) The

1 commission shall develop and implement simplified certification  
2 and recertification requirements for individuals who are 60 years  
3 of age or older and who reside in a household in which every  
4 individual residing in the household is 60 years of age or older.  
5 The simplified requirements must:

6 (1) allow an individual described by this section to  
7 waive initial certification and recertification interview  
8 requirements;

9 (2) simplify and reduce the number of verification  
10 requirements for certifying and recertifying eligibility to  
11 receive benefits, which must include the use of a shortened  
12 application form; and

13 (3) allow the individual to remain eligible for  
14 benefits for 36 months after certification and after each  
15 recertification.

16 (b) An individual described by this section is not required  
17 to report to the commission during the 36-month eligibility period  
18 unless the individual receives a significant increase in income or  
19 assets during that period.

20 (c) The commission shall, in a manner that complies with  
21 federal law, use data matching to help enroll in the supplemental  
22 nutrition assistance program eligible individuals described by  
23 this section who are receiving Medicaid or Medicare benefits.

24 SECTION 3. Section 33.019, Human Resources Code, as added  
25 by this Act, applies only to an application or recertification of  
26 eligibility of a person for supplemental nutrition assistance  
27 program benefits submitted on or after January 1, 2020.

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

7           SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.