

By: Perry

S.B. No. 1445

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

(A) have no earned income; and

(B) are elderly or persons with disabilities; or

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

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

Sec. 33.019. SIMPLIFIED CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION 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.