

By: Minjarez

H.B. No. 1211

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the exclusion of certain resources in determining
3 eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program
4 during a declared state of disaster.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 33.021 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 33.021. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN RESOURCES IN DETERMINING
9 SNAP ELIGIBILITY DURING DECLARED DISASTER. (a) In this section,
10 "disaster declaration" means a declaration by the governor of a
11 state of disaster issued under Section 418.014, Government Code.

12 (b) This section applies only to an applicant for or
13 recipient of supplemental nutrition assistance benefits who
14 resides in a county all or part of which is located in an area
15 included in a disaster declaration.

16 (c) In determining the eligibility of an applicant for or
17 recertifying the eligibility of a recipient of supplemental
18 nutrition assistance benefits to whom this section applies, the
19 commission may not consider as resources:

20 (1) any liquid resources of the applicant or recipient
21 or a member of the applicant's or recipient's household, including
22 the total amount of assets held in a school-based account or bond
23 described by Section 28.0024(b)(2), Education Code, that are
24 considered liquid resources, notwithstanding Section 33.0291(b) of

1 this code; or

2 (2) any motor vehicle in which the applicant or
3 recipient or a member of the applicant's or recipient's household
4 has an ownership interest.

5 (d) The commission shall continue excluding resources under
6 Subsection (c) until the state of disaster is terminated.

7 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to an
8 initial determination or recertification of eligibility of a person
9 for the supplemental nutrition assistance program under Chapter 33,
10 Human Resources Code, that is made on or after the effective date of
11 this Act.

12 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
13 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
14 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
15 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
16 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
17 waiver or authorization is granted.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.