

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 supplemental nutrition
3 assistance program benefits for an individual who:

4 (1) is 60 years of age or older or is a person with a
5 disability, as determined by commission rule;

6 (2) has no earned income; and

7 (3) resides in a household in which every individual
8 residing in the household is 60 years of age or older or is a person
9 with a disability, as determined by commission rule.

10 (b) The simplified requirements must:

11 (1) allow an individual described by this section to
12 waive recertification interview requirements;

13 (2) simplify and reduce the number of verification
14 requirements for certifying and recertifying eligibility to
15 receive benefits, which must include the use of a shortened
16 application form; and

17 (3) allow the individual to remain eligible for
18 benefits for 36 months after certification and after each
19 recertification.

20 (c) An individual described by this section is required to:

21 (1) submit to the commission a change reporting form
22 every 12 months during the 36-month eligibility period; and

23 (2) report to the commission, in accordance with
24 federal law, when the individual receives an increase in income.

25 (d) The commission shall, in a manner that complies with
26 federal law, use data matching to inform eligible individuals
27 described by this section who are receiving Medicaid benefits of

1 their eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance program
2 benefits.

3 SECTION 3. Section 33.019, Human Resources Code, as added
4 by this Act, applies only to an application or recertification of
5 eligibility of a person for supplemental nutrition assistance
6 program benefits submitted on or after January 1, 2022.

7 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act
8 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
9 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
10 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
11 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
12 waiver or authorization is granted.

13 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 224 passed the Senate on April 8, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 27, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 224 passed the House, with amendment, on May 24, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 117, Nays 28, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor