

By: Johnson

S.B. No. 1217

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance  
3 program benefits.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code,  
6 is amended by adding Sections 33.016 and 33.0215 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 33.016. PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN PERSONS FOR  
8 SNAP BENEFITS. (a) The commission by rule shall ensure that an  
9 individual whose eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance  
10 program benefits has been initially established or recertified  
11 remains eligible to receive those benefits for a period of 12  
12 months.

13 (b) The commission may adjust the eligibility period  
14 described by Subsection (a) as necessary to align an individual's  
15 recertification of eligibility for supplemental nutrition  
16 assistance program benefits with the redetermination of  
17 eligibility of a child residing in the same household for medical  
18 assistance program benefits under Chapter 32.

19 (c) This section does not apply to an individual receiving  
20 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits who:

21 (1) at the time the individual's eligibility for  
22 benefits is initially established or recertified, expects a change  
23 in circumstances within six months following the establishment or  
24 recertification of eligibility that will make the individual

1 ineligible to receive the benefits;

2 (2) is 60 years of age or older or has a disability,  
3 has no earned income, and resides in a household in which every  
4 other individual residing in the household:

5 (A) is 60 years of age or older or has a  
6 disability; and

7 (B) has no earned income; or

8 (3) resides in a household in which at least one  
9 individual:

10 (A) is at least 18 years of age but younger than  
11 50 years of age;

12 (B) has no dependents; and

13 (C) does not have a disability.

14 Sec. 33.0215. ANNUAL INFLATION ADJUSTMENT OF RESOURCES  
15 EXCLUDED IN DETERMINING SNAP ELIGIBILITY. (a) Subject to  
16 Subsection (b), the executive commissioner by rule shall adjust for  
17 inflation the maximum amount prescribed by the commission, if any,  
18 for a resource excluded from the resources of an applicant's  
19 household for purposes of determining the applicant's eligibility  
20 for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.

21 (b) Not later than October 1 of each year, the maximum  
22 amount of a resource described by Subsection (a) must be adjusted to  
23 reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban  
24 Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or its  
25 successor index during the preceding 12-month period ending in  
26 June.

27 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), for the initial

1 adjustment under Subsection (a), the executive commissioner shall  
2 adjust the maximum amount prescribed by the commission for an  
3 excluded resource to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index  
4 for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics  
5 during each 12-month period since July 1, 2001. This subsection  
6 expires October 1, 2022.

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.