

1-1 By: Leach, et al. (Senate Sponsor - West) H.B. No. 1743
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2023;
 1-3 April 25, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
 1-4 & Human Services; May 21, 2023, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 1; May 21, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11		X		
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to a memorandum of understanding between the Health and
 1-20 Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Criminal
 1-21 Justice to assess the eligibility of certain inmates for
 1-22 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits on discharge or
 1-23 release from confinement.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code,
 1-26 is amended by adding Section 33.0181 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 33.0181. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING
 1-28 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR CERTAIN INMATES. (a) In this
 1-29 section, "inmate" means an individual confined in a facility
 1-30 operated by or under contract with the Texas Department of Criminal
 1-31 Justice.

1-32 (b) The commission and the Texas Department of Criminal
 1-33 Justice shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for the
 1-34 purpose of ensuring that an inmate who is likely to be eligible for
 1-35 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits on discharge or release
 1-36 on parole, mandatory supervision, or conditional pardon is assessed
 1-37 by the commission for eligibility for those benefits before the
 1-38 inmate's discharge or release.

1-39 (c) The memorandum of understanding required by this
 1-40 section must:

1-41 (1) establish a procedure through which the commission
 1-42 shall accept and process supplemental nutrition assistance program
 1-43 applications from inmates; and

1-44 (2) define the roles and responsibilities of each
 1-45 agency under the memorandum.

1-46 (d) The memorandum of understanding required by Subsection
 1-47 (b) must be tailored to achieve the goal of ensuring that an inmate
 1-48 described by Subsection (b) who is determined eligible by the
 1-49 commission for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits
 1-50 may begin receiving services under the program at the time of the
 1-51 inmate's discharge or release on parole, mandatory supervision, or
 1-52 conditional pardon.

1-53 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary
 1-54 to implement this section.

1-55 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
 1-56 of this Act, the Health and Human Services Commission and Texas
 1-57 Department of Criminal Justice shall enter into the memorandum of
 1-58 understanding required by Section 33.0181, Human Resources Code, as
 1-59 added by this Act.

1-60 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
 1-61 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a

2-1 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
2-2 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
2-3 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
2-4 waiver or authorization is granted.

2-5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-9 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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