

2019 Texas Senate Bill No. 1445, Texas Eighty-Sixth Legislature

TEXAS BILL TEXT

**TITLE: Relating to simplified certification and recertification requirements
for certain persons under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.**

VERSION: Introduced

March 04, 2019

Perry



Image 1 within document in PDF format.

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

TEXT:

86R7270 JG-D

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 commission shall develop and implement simplified certification and recertification requirements for individuals who are 60 years of age or older and who reside in a household in which every individual residing in the household is 60 years of age or older. The simplified requirements must:

- (1) allow an individual described by this section to waive initial certification and recertification interview requirements;**
 - (2) simplify and reduce the number of verification requirements for certifying and recertifying eligibility to receive benefits, which must include the use of a shortened application form; and**
 - (3) allow the individual to remain eligible for benefits for 36 months after certification and after each recertification.**
- (b) An individual described by this section is not required to report to the commission during the 36-month eligibility period unless the individual receives a significant increase in income or assets during that period.**
- (c) The commission shall, in a manner that complies with federal law, use data matching to help enroll in the supplemental nutrition assistance program eligible individuals described by this section who are receiving Medicaid or Medicare benefits.**

SECTION 3. Section 33.019, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act, applies only to an application or recertification of eligibility of a person for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits submitted on or after January 1, 2020.

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

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.