

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of food stamp benefits at farmers markets.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0024 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0024. USE OF FOOD STAMP BENEFITS AT FARMERS MARKETS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Farmers market" has the meaning assigned by Section 15.001, Agriculture Code.

(2) "Lone Star Card" means the card issued by the Health and Human Services Commission to deliver benefits under the food stamp program and the financial assistance program established under Chapter 31.

(b) The department, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, shall take all action necessary to ensure that recipients of food stamp benefits may use those benefits to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and other food at farmers markets.

(c) Action required under Subsection (b) includes:

(1) ensuring the availability of Lone Star Card terminals at each farmers market so that food stamp recipients may use Lone Star Cards to make purchases at the market;

(2) providing training and technical assistance to managers and vendors at farmers markets regarding acceptance of the

1 Lone Star Card; and  
2 (3) conducting an outreach campaign to inform food  
3 stamp recipients of the ability to use Lone Star Cards at farmers  
4 markets.

5 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
6 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
7 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
8 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
9 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
10 waiver or authorization is granted.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.