

1-1 By: Shapleigh S.B. No. 1088  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 24, 2009; March 13, 2009,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture and Rural  
1-4 Affairs; May 4, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 4, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the use of food stamp benefits at farmers markets.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, is amended by  
1-11 adding Section 33.0024 to read as follows:

1-12 Sec. 33.0024. USE OF FOOD STAMP BENEFITS AT FARMERS  
1-13 MARKETS. (a) In this section:

1-14 (1) "Farmers market" has the meaning assigned by  
1-15 Section 15.001, Agriculture Code.

1-16 (2) "Lone Star Card" means the card issued by the  
1-17 Health and Human Services Commission to deliver benefits under the  
1-18 food stamp program and the financial assistance program established  
1-19 under Chapter 31.

1-20 (b) The department, in cooperation with the Department of  
1-21 Agriculture, shall take all action necessary to ensure that  
1-22 recipients of food stamp benefits may use those benefits to  
1-23 purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and other food at farmers  
1-24 markets.

1-25 (c) Action required under Subsection (b) includes:

1-26 (1) ensuring the availability of Lone Star Card  
1-27 terminals at each farmers market so that food stamp recipients may  
1-28 use Lone Star Cards to make purchases at the market;

1-29 (2) providing training and technical assistance to  
1-30 managers and vendors at farmers markets regarding acceptance of the  
1-31 Lone Star Card; and

1-32 (3) conducting an outreach campaign to inform food  
1-33 stamp recipients of the ability to use Lone Star Cards at farmers  
1-34 markets.

1-35 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
1-36 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
1-37 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
1-38 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
1-39 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
1-40 waiver or authorization is granted.

1-41 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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