

# New laws improve SNAP access for many Texans

2023 Texas State Legislative Session Updates



## WHAT IS THE TEXAS STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION?



- The Texas State Legislative Session occurs every odd year.
- During the session, elected officials, like representatives and senators, meet and vote on bills.
- Bills are created, or authored, by elected officials.
- These bills start off as ideas. An idea for a bill may be suggested by anyone: concerned citizens, special interest groups, state agencies, or the governor, for example.
- If bills receive enough votes, they are passed into law.

## TWO BILLS RELATED TO FOOD INSECURITY WERE MADE INTO LAW DURING THE 2023 TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

- 11 bills were submitted related to food insecurity.

### HOUSE BILL 1287: UPDATING THE SNAP VEHICLE ASSET TEST



- Texas uses a Vehicle Asset Test (VAT) to determine if a household is eligible to participate in SNAP.
- The VAT places limits on the value of the vehicle a household may own and still qualify for SNAP.
- Texas is one of only 10 states that uses the VAT to qualify for SNAP.
- HB 1287 makes a one-time adjustment to the VAT based on inflation to better reflect the current value of the vehicle.
- Texans should not be punished for owning a reliable vehicle, nor for the inflation in the car market.
- The bill was authored by Representative Ryan Guillen and sponsored by Senator Cesar Blanco.

### HOUSE BILL 1743: IMPLEMENTING PRE-RELEASE SNAP REGISTRATION

- HB 1743 supports people exiting the criminal justice system by allowing eligible individuals to apply for SNAP before their release so that they have access to food upon release.
- Allowing people who are incarcerated to pre-register for SNAP reduces their risk for food insecurity.
- The bill was authored by Representative Jeff Leach and sponsored by Senator Royce West.



**METROPOLITAN  
HEALTH DISTRICT**

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