



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 4, 2024

Contact: Taylor Sanchez

Taylor.sanchez@senate.texas.gov

Senator César J. Blanco Files Bill to Address Food Insecurity for Texas Families

Austin, Texas – Senator César J. Blanco has filed Senate Bill 1031 to address Texas’ growing backlog of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications, ensuring families can keep food on the table.

Texas is one of only five states that has not adopted a streamlined eligibility system. SB 1031 requires the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to implement a monthly quality control review for a random sample of SNAP households rather than reviewing every case, ensuring accurate benefit allotments without unnecessary delays.

“With an understaffed HHSC burdened by application backlogs, families are having to wait months for food assistance, while food banks work tirelessly to fill the gap,” said Senator Blanco. “This bill cuts through the red tape, streamlines the process, and ensures Texans get the help they need without unnecessary delays.”

SB 1031 extends the standard SNAP eligibility period to 12 months for most recipients and streamlines the reporting process by allowing automated processing for cases with no changes in income, household composition, or residence.

"Families shouldn't face bureaucratic obstacles just to access food assistance," said Senator Blanco. "I'm committed to ensuring Texans get help faster while equipping HHSC to meet demand. Addressing this backlog will reduce delays and make sure families receive support when they need it most."

##